



Spelling Bee Rules & Procedures

Welcome to the Bee – a fun, lively, exciting teambuilding event! Teams of up to 10 work together to come up with the correct spellings of words, advancing through more challenging rounds as the night goes on. You don't need to stand up in front of a crowd! It is all for fun and fundraising for a great cause – CoveCare Center's many community-based mental health and substance use programs and services.

The Bee consists of regular rounds of 10 words. Teams are eliminated after 3 incorrectly spelled words unless a mulligan is purchased (see #7).

The Championship Round will begin once there is a maximum of 5 teams remaining (see #8).

So here is how it works!

1. All teams should identify a designated speller who will write the team's response on the whiteboard provided.
2. No electronic devices will be allowed. They must be silenced and put away. Judges will be watching!
3. Emcees will pronounce the word, define it and use it in a sentence, and then repeat the word. Any team may ask the emcees to repeat the word one more time during the 30 second round, but no more.
4. You have 30 seconds to spell the word on the whiteboard. When judges call time, all markers must be put down and the whiteboards must be held up and shown to the judges. Judges will wait until the full 30 seconds are up before notifying the team if their spelling is correct.
 - Any team still writing or attempting to change their written word after time is called will be disqualified.
 - Writing must be legible as determined by the judge. If it is illegible, the word will be deemed incorrect.
5. Do NOT erase your whiteboard until you have been told the word is spelled correctly or not by the Judge.
 - If a Team erases its word too soon, it may be disqualified.
6. If you have spelled the word correctly as stated by the judge, please erase, and prepare for the next word.
7. If you have spelled the word incorrectly, the judge will lower one of your teams' blue flags before the next word is announced.
 - Once your team incorrectly spells its third word, your team is eliminated unless you wish to purchase or have already purchased a mulligan (\$25 each in advance or \$30 each at the event, max of 5 per team). If not, the judge will lower your last remaining blue flag and remove your team's name sign.
 - You may proceed with play if you purchase a mulligan. Let your judge know that your team would like to purchase a mulligan(s), the judge will raise the green flag that is at your table and a designated person will come to assist you. Please have your cash/check ready or scan the QR code to pay by credit card. A mulligan gives your team one blue flag back, meaning you are back in the competition until you misspell another word. Five (5) mulligans are allowed per team. A mulligan can only be purchased during regular round play, not during the Championship Round. If you wish to purchase a mulligan, act quickly! After purchasing a mulligan, teams must be ready to spell the next word called by the emcees.

8. When there is a *maximum* of 5 remaining teams left, the Spelling Bee enters the Championship Round.
 - Single elimination round: teams will be eliminated with the first word misspelled, until there is only one team left, who will become the Champions!
 - If all remaining teams misspell the same word, only these teams will be allowed to try again.
 - If there is a tie, the emcees will continue to offer words until there is a clear winner.
9. Judges make the final decision on all questions. There will be no appeals.
10. Trophies will be awarded to 1st and 2nd Place Winners as well as to the “Most Enthusiastic Team” - **this award will go to the team with the most creative/innovative team spirit – i.e., dressing up/costumes, props, creative prepared cheers, etc. - NOT the loudest team.**

CoveCare Center uses the “Spell It!” List from the National Spelling Bee, Webster’s Dictionary, and other online resources. If you want to practice your spelling skills, you can visit www.myspellit.com.

We encourage participants to cheer their team’s efforts.

Costumes, props and prepared cheers are always a lot of fun.

However, please note the following:

Occasionally, given their excitement, participants have been known to become so loud that spellers throughout the room cannot concentrate. While we do not wish to stifle your enthusiasm, we have created the following simple rule to ensure that everyone has an enjoyable time at the Bee.

- **No cheering is permitted while emcees are pronouncing each word, reciting their definitions, or using them in sentences.**

Please note that pictures may be taken at this event for promotional purposes or for publication.

**Thank you for supporting CoveCare Center.
Best of luck to your team!**

