

2025 Spelling Team Rules

1. The pronouncer or designee shall draw numbers of **columns** (each “column” is actually two columns numbering 92 words) to be used as each quarter progresses. Columns are numbered **1** through **32** inclusive.
2. The match will consist of four quarters with a two-minute break at the quarters and a five-minute break at the half.
3. **A quarter will end when the spellers in that quarter have had an equal opportunity to spell 18 words in the competition. There will be no clock for timing quarters, only for breaks between quarters and halfway through the competition.**
4. No speller will be eliminated should he/she miss a word. Each of the four spellers will spell for one quarter (**15 words in sectional and 18 words in the final competition**). **The name of the speller for each quarter shall be submitted to the Regional Office of Education prior to the contest.**
5. Teams will be randomly drawn for position around the table and shall be seated from the pronouncer, left to right. If at all possible, spellers should be faced away from the audience.
6. There will be three judges, two scorekeepers/timers. The timers’ responsibility is only for breaks between quarters and half.
7. A point is scored for the team on each correctly spelled word. The team having the highest number of points at the end of the match shall be declared the winner.
8. Any questions concerning the spelling of a given word must be decided **immediately.** **No** change in scoring will be permitted after another word has been given.
9. Plaques will be awarded for first and second places. In the case of a tie for first or second place, only the teams tied will spell in overtime.
10. Each team shall select its own contestant for the overtime period.
11. Overtime period will last **10** words per contestant. A new column will be drawn from the county spelling list for use in the overtime. If there still is a tie after the first overtime period, those tied will spell 10 words each again, continuing down the selected column. This procedure will be repeated until the tie is broken. After each **10** word per speller overtime, the number of correct spellings will be tabulated for the purpose of scoring.
12. Words will come from the Vermilion County word list.
13. Decisions of the judges will be final.
14. The pronouncer may verify a different pronunciation. The speller **must** ask if there is an alternative pronunciation and **give** that pronunciation. The pronouncer shall verify only the requested pronunciation.
15. This contest is an **oral contest.** No writing materials will be allowed at the contestant table. No use in sentences or definitions may be given by the pronouncer.
16. There will be no substitutions made during the rounds.

Any questions should be directed to Aaron Hird at the Regional Office of Education (431-2668).