



2020 SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES

ADMISSIBILITY

- A. All Learners in Public or Private Primary Schools in Kenya can register to participate in the Spelling Bee Championship.
- B. The 2020 Kenya National Spelling Bee Championship is open to Learners in classes/grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 only.
- C. To register for the 2020 Spelling Bee Championship, pupils can register individually or through their School via www.kenyaspellingbee.com.
- D. Learners may only compete for one School and County at a time.
- E. To participate, all Learners must pay a non-refundable fee of 500 Kenya Shillings to KNSB.
- E. The Kenya National Spelling Bee may disqualify prior to or during the Championship any Speller who is not in compliance with any of the above Admissibility Requirements.
- F. KNSB Officials may—at any time before or after the conclusion of the Kenya National Spelling Bee Championship — require any Speller, Teacher or School who is found to have not been in compliance with any of the guidelines to forfeit any prizes, rank, and other benefits accorded to the Speller, Teacher or School as a result of participation in the Kenya National Spelling Bee Championship.

Official Dictionary

- ✚ The Oxford Advanced Learners English Dictionary is the official dictionary of the Championship. All words used in the Championship can be found in the said dictionary.
- ✚ The dictionary will be the final say on any disputes involving spelling. In cases where American and British spelling differs, Spellers shall use British English.
- ✚ Homonyms: If a word has a homonym, the pronouncer will note that and provide the definition of the desired word when he or she gives the word. If the pronouncer fails to do that, and the Speller provides the correct spelling of any of the homonyms, it will be considered correct.



GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A Speller qualifying for the Kenya National Spelling Bee must meet these requirements;

A. The Speller must attend a School that is registered with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in Kenya.

B. The Speller must not have repeated any grade for the purpose of extending spelling bee admissibility. If the Speller has repeated any grade, the Speller must notify the Kenya National Spelling Bee of the circumstances of grade repetition and the Kenya National Spelling Bee will, in its sole discretion, determine the speller's eligibility status.

C. The Speller—or the Speller's parent, legal guardian, or school official acting on the Speller's behalf—must not declare an academic classification higher than class/grade four, five, six, seven or eight for any purpose.

D. The Speller must not shun normal school activity to study for the spelling bee championship.

E. Participants must be accompanied at all times by a Parent/legal Guardian or Teacher/School official appointed by the School to all the Championships, preferably of the same gender.

F. Once having been disqualified at any level of a Spelling Bee Championship, the Speller remains disqualified for the Kenya National Spelling Bee Championship for the entire year.

G. The Speller must not have any first, second- or third-degree relatives who are current employees of the Kenya National Spelling Bee.

H. Preliminary Rounds will be held in each participating School, using words from the Upper Primary syllabus textbooks, KNSB word lists and KNSB qualifier tests.

I. Spellers must pronounce the letters as used in the English alphabet, not the sound of the letters or the names of the letters in any language that uses the Roman alphabet.

J. Images will not be used for commercial purposes or given to other people to use. Participants who do not wish their photos or images to be used will be respected.

K. Prizes will be given out as per the communication on the KNSB website.



RULES AND REGULATIONS

An official of KNSB will read the below rules aloud before the beginning of each Championship unless those present agree unanimously to waive the reading of the rules. Rules 26 to 30 will apply when Speller's have tied in the top 3 positions;

- I.** The Pronouncer, Judge(s) and other officials of KNSB will be in complete charge of the Championships. The official(s) decisions will be final in all matters.
- II.** Any questions or protests about the spelling(s) or pronunciation of a word must be referred to the officials immediately a round has been completed (before the beginning of the next round).
- III.** No Protest will be entertained after the Championship has ended.

Below are the rules and regulations for the Spelling Bee Championships;

- 1.** For each Championship there will be an arbiter, (*one of the 3 judges*) whose duty is to hear any protests as they arise and decide on them before the Championship continues.
- 2.** All the words that will be used in the Championship will be chosen from the upper primary syllabus books, oxford dictionary and word lists compiled by KNSB officials.
- 3.** Spellers may not receive help of any sort from other Spellers or members of the audience. If that occurs, the Speller(s) will be disqualified.
- 4.** The Championship will be **oral**; contestants must spell the words orally and the use of pens and/or pencils and paper will not be allowed, *except in special cases*.
- 5.** There will be 4 rounds and 11 words in total during the Spelling Bee Championship.
- 6.** In each round, Spellers receive one word to spell at a time. If they spell it correctly, they continue to the next word. If incorrectly, they are eliminated, and must leave the stage except on the warm up round where there will be no elimination on the first word given.
- 7.** Round 1 shall have 2 words. The first word in round one shall be a warm up word and participants shall not be eliminated even if they spell the given word wrongly.



8. The 2nd word in round one shall be an elimination word and should the Speller get it wrong they shall be eliminated from the competition.
9. There shall be 2 words in round two, 3 words in round 3 and 4 words in round 4.
10. Round 4 shall be the final and sudden death round and all words in this round shall be outside the usual word lists. These words will be picked by KNSB from a wide range of textbooks within the grade 4 to 8 syllabus and the oxford dictionary.
11. Each word shall be spelled within **20** seconds.
12. Contestants may pronounce their words before spelling them, after spelling them, or not at all.
13. For all words with capitals, the Speller must indicate the Capital Letter. For example, Mombasa the Speller must say “Capital M–o–m–b–a–s–a.”
14. Spellers must spell each letter. They may not use “double _” or any other shorthand in their spelling. For example, ‘book’ must be spelled as “b–o–o–k, not b–double o–k.”
15. Once a contestant has begun to spell a word, he or she may not ask for a word to be re-pronounced, defined or used in a sentence.
16. Also, having started to spell a word, a contestant will not be given any opportunity to change letters already pronounced. A Speller may retrace provided that letters and their sequence are not changed in retracing.
17. Apostrophes, hyphens and other punctuations are required where necessary for example o’clock must be spelled as “o–apostrophe–c–l–o–c–k.”
18. If a word is unclear to a contestant, he or she may ask for the word to be re-pronounced, defined or used in a sentence, unless the word is a homophone in which case the Pronouncer must give the definition and an example sentence without being asked.
19. The contestant must give the spelling of the word as defined, not a homophone of the word.



20. The Pronouncer will grant the request(s) to repeat a word, definition and example in a sentence until the officials agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant.
 21. Officials may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to start spelling his or her word within a reasonable length of time. Also, a Speller whose spelling of a word is not audible to the officials may have his or her spelling ruled incorrect.
 22. Upon successful registration, Spellers will be assigned numbers at random to determine the order of spelling during competitions.
 23. In each round, the Speller must be present when his or her number is up. Failure to be present will be considered a misspelling.
 24. When it is their turn, spellers should approach the microphone/stage and face the judges.
 25. The Championship continues until there are only 3 top spellers left, and they are the Champions.
- Note:** *Rules 26 onwards are for the tie-breaker rounds only.*
26. If there are Spellers tied for the top positions, the Judges will hold additional rounds among those Spellers to determine the order of finish. Additional rounds will be held for each of the positions where there is a tie.
 27. Spellers who have tied for a particular position will be given the same word to spell, one after the other, and the Judges will give them the correct spelling only after each Speller has finished spelling.
 28. If all the Spellers misspell the same word, then all the contestants will remain in the Championship until only one Speller spells the word correctly.
 29. If all the Spellers get the same word correct, then all the contestants will remain in the Championship until only one Speller spells the word correctly and the others spell it wrongly.
 30. This will go on until ONLY one contestant Spells the word correctly and they will be declared the Champion.