

13th Annual New York State Islamic Schools Spelling Bee Competition Rules and Regulations

**General Information**  
**Rev. 2020**

Eligibility of Participants	Format and Word List
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Participant must be in the grade required for the spelling level of the competition.</li> <li>● Participants must complete online registration <b>and</b> make sure their teacher completes the Teacher Endorsement Form by the deadline by <b>March 6 , 2020.</b></li> <li>● Participants’ birth certificates and registration fees of \$15 (only cash/money order; nonrefundable, non transferable) must be submitted on the day of the competition, <b>March 21, 2020.</b> An explanation for students who are older than the average age must be attached with the registration form.</li> <li>● Participant must be enrolled full time in a full time Islamic School or public/charter school. (No weekend schools/homeschooling.)</li> <li>● Schools outside of NYS seeking to participate must contact Al-Madinah School directly.</li> <li>● Participants can only compete in one level.</li> <li>● Participants and guests must be in proper Islamic attire. All girls and sisters must wear hijab upon entering the school building.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The spelling bee competition is be categorized in the following levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level K – Kindergarten</li> <li>Level 1 – Grade 1</li> <li>Level 2 – Grade 2</li> <li>Level 3 – Grade 3</li> <li>Level 4 – Grades 4 and 5</li> <li>Level 5 – Grades 6 and 7</li> <li>Level 6 – Grade 8</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>There is a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>,4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> place winner for each level. All others receive a spelling bee participation medal. All categories are combined with boys and girls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Spelling Bee is conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells one word in each round. The spelling bee is conducted orally. Upon incorrectly spelling a word, the speller immediately drops out of the competition.</li> <li>● Words will come from the N.Y.S. Islamic Schools Spelling Bee word list for each level. If words are depleted, words from the next level will be used and the same will be followed until competition is over. In case of all lists are exhausted judges have the right to choose words from any source like a dictionary (paper or online).</li> <li>● <u>The Spelling Bee Competition will be photographed, taped and recorded. By participating in the competition participants and guests give Al Madinah School permission to be videotaped, recorded and have pictures taken. Such recordings and pictures will be used for judging and used for advertising this event.</u></li> <li>● A voluntary survey will be available after the Spelling Bee Competition is over for the participants to share their feedback.</li> <li>● The competition timings will be schedules will be announced sometime before the day of the competition. Please visit the school’s website at <a href="http://www.almadinah-school.com">www.almadinah-school.com</a></li> </ul>

### The Roles and Responsibilities of Officials

Judges	Pronouncers Role	Time Keeper
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Judges’ names are selected by Al Madinah School from the host school, other schools, parents or from the Muslim community. Preference is given to judges who have had previous experience.</li> <li>● Judges cannot be parents of students participating in the competition. The judges uphold the competition rules and regulations and determine whether or not words are spelled correctly. They are in complete control of the competition, and <u>their decision is final.</u></li> <li>● The judges participate in the exchange of the information between the speller and the pronouncer if they feel that clarification is needed.</li> <li>● The judges listen carefully to the speller’s pronunciation of the word, if they sense that the speller has misunderstood the word the judges work with the speller and pronouncer until they are satisfied that reasonable attempts have been made to assist the speller in understanding the word. The judges are not responsible for the spellers misunderstanding.</li> <li>● Judges reserve the right to bypass words in the word binder if competition is competitive and few spellers drop out from the first six rounds or that time is running out of the competition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There will be one pronouncer for each competition from the hosting school.</li> <li>● The hosting school will nominate the pronouncers.</li> <li>● The pronouncer strives to pronounce words according to the diacritical markings.</li> <li>● If words are homonyms or homophones the pronouncer indicates which word is to be spelled by defining the word or by giving a sentence.</li> <li>● The pronouncer responds to the speller’s request for a definition or a sentence only if the word is not in the speller’s word list. The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, and use it in a sentence before attempting to spell it. It is the speller’s responsibility to understand the word.</li> <li>● <u>Pronouncer’s mispronunciation:</u> A pronunciation error should be denied unless there is agreement among the judges that the pronouncer never offered a correct pronunciation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There will be one time keeper for the competitions running simultaneously. The time keepers will be from the participating schools.</li> <li>● Keep track of the time. The time limit is one minute for all levels.</li> <li>● After time is out – bell will sound and spellers will be disqualified.</li> </ul>

### The Roles and Responsibilities of Spellers

<b>Speller's Role</b>	<b>Disqualifications</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The speller makes an effort to face the judges and pronounce the word for the judges before and during spelling. (SSS – say the word, spell the word, and say the word again).</li> <li>● The speller while facing the judges makes an effort to utter each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by the judges.</li> <li>● Each speller has a maximum of one minute to spell the word.</li> <li>● Spellers in levels 3 – 6 must indicate capitalization.</li> <li>● The speller is responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The pronouncer never provided a correct pronunciation.</li> <li>2) The pronouncer provided incorrect information regarding the definition or pronunciation.</li> <li>3) The speller correctly spelled a homonym or homophone of the word and the pronouncer failed to either offer a definition or distinguish the word.</li> </ol> </li> <li>● Definitions and/or sentences will not be provided for words given in NYS Islamic Schools Spelling word lists. This includes all words in word lists.</li> <li>● Homonyms/homophones will be given sentences and/ definitions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The judges will disqualify a speller who:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Refuses a request to start spelling.</li> <li>2) Clearly misspells a word.</li> <li>3) Arrives after their level already begun.</li> <li>4) Does not approach the microphone when it is time to receive the word.</li> <li>5) Does not comply with the eligibility requirements.</li> <li>6) Engages in unsportsmanlike/unislamic conduct.</li> <li>7) In the process of spelling utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds.</li> <li>8) Exceeds the one minute time limit.</li> <li>9) Fails to spell each letter distinctly (spells rapidly).</li> <li>10) Spellers in levels 3 - 6 who do not indicate capitalization.</li> <li>11) Failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it. (SSS)</li> <li>12) Going back and respell part or the word even if correct (except level K and level 1.</li> </ol> </li> <li>● Judges may not disqualify a speller for:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Asking a question</li> <li>2) For asking pronouncer to repeat the word.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

**Questions & Answers**

<b>End of competition procedures</b>	<b>Guests</b>	<b>Frequent Errors</b>
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● **Q:** What happens when all spellers in a round misspell the words given?

○ **A:** If all spellers in a round misspell, all spellers in the round will remain in the competition and a new round will begin.

● **Q:** How do you determine the 5<sup>th</sup> place winner when there were only two in the final round?

**A:** In order to determine the 5<sup>th</sup> place winner, all spellers from the last round will be called back and the spelling bee competition will continue until a 5<sup>th</sup> place winner is determined

● **Q:** What happens when there are two spellers left in a round?

○ **A:** When there are two spellers left in a new round, the spellers will keep on competing until one misspells, but the other must spell another word correctly in that same round to be the first place winner and the speller that misspelled will automatically be the second place winner.

● **Q:** What if there are three spellers left in a round?

○ **A:** If there are three spellers left in a new round and two spellers misspell, the speller that spells correctly in this round he/she will automatically be 1<sup>st</sup> place winner. The other two spellers will go into a new round to determine the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner.

● **Q:** Are visitors allowed?

○ **A:** Each participant is allowed a maximum of 2 guests. It is not recommended to bring young children as the wait time may be long.

● **Q:** Are guests allowed in the competition area.

○ **A:** No. Once the competition begins only participants will be allowed to enter. TV Screens may be available for guests to watch from a separate location.

**Q:** Can Visitors come and watch?

**A:** At this time no accommodations have been made for visitors. Each person who attends must come as a guest of a participant.

● **Q:** What will occur if an incident happened that is not stated in the rules and regulations?

○ **A:** The rules and regulations cannot contain every detail. In the event that something occurs that is not stated in the rules and regulations, the judges will be left to make a decision. It is each participant's responsibility to fully read and understand the rules and regulations of the competition.

● **Q:** Why should all participants in the spelling bee competition be familiar with the rules and regulations?

○ **A:** It is each participant's responsibility and their parents to be informed about the competition rules and regulations.

● **Q:** What will happen if spellers in levels 2-6 go back and respell part of a word even if the spelling was correct?

○ **A:** Spellers cannot go back and respell part of a word even if the spelling was correct. For example, if the word is strawberry, and the student says "s - t - r " then pauses and says again, "s - t - r - a - w - b - e - r - r - y," the student will be disqualified (except for levels **K and 1**).

● **Q:** What if a speller spells a different word than the one given?

○ **A:** If the speller spells a word different from the word given, which is **closely** related in sound, the speller will be given a sentence or definition for clarification and will be asked to respell the word. Judges will determine if there is a need for clarification. It is the speller's responsibility to understand the word prior to spelling it. If a speller spells a different word from the word given after he/she is given a sentence or definition for clarification, the speller will be disqualified.