



SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE CODE OF CONDUCT

Scripps National Spelling Bee, Inc. (SNSB) is committed to providing an integrity-centered competition and a safe, supportive, harassment-free experience at every level of its competition, from the classroom level to the national competition. As such, SNSB expects all Participants (defined here in as anyone attending or competing in a spelling bee competition with ties to SNSB) to display the highest level of personal conduct. This includes, but is not limited to:

- communicating respectfully whether in person or virtually;
- keeping safety at the forefront of decision-making;
- refraining from interfering with the officials, staff, volunteers, and spellers engaging in spelling-bee-related activities; and
- complying with all venue rules and regulations: the Bee venue's actions related to violation of their rules are not subject to appeal through SNSB and are at the Bee venue's sole discretion.

SNSB does not tolerate harassment, interference, disturbance, and disregard for safety in any form, including but not limited to:

- verbal, electronic and/or written communication;
- physically intimidating behavior;
- tampering with property;
- disagreements that create a disturbance in any space utilized by spelling bee participants;
- refusal to comply with seating or queueing directions;
- disruptions to the competition that interfere with a speller's performance;
- actions that convey to a speller how to spell a word; and
- disruption to the work of the pronouncers, judges, and/or record keepers as they administer the competition.

The SNSB has zero tolerance for hate speech, or any form of expression intended to discriminate or humiliate on the basis of race, religion, skin color, sexual identity, gender identity, ethnicity, disability or national origin.

If, in the sole discretion of SNSB, Participants engage in unsafe or harassing, interfering, or disturbance-inducing behavior or language in real or virtual space, SNSB staff may take any action they deem appropriate including, but not limited to, warning the Participants, expelling the Participants from SNSB activities, and/or banning the Participants from this and future SNSB events and activities.

Speller Expectations

The Scripps National Spelling Bee encourages all spellers to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate for the competition and promotes a safe and fair environment for all.

Spellers are encouraged to pay attention to all officials and coordinators of the competition, show respect for fellow spellers, and educate themselves on the rules of the competition.



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Spellers will:

- Behave in accordance with the ideals of fair honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of competition results or decisions of the officials.
- Show courtesy to fellow spellers and officials.
- Discourage fellow spellers, parents, and audience members from acting in an unsportsmanlike manner.

Spellers will not:

- Use profanity or unsportsmanlike language before, during, or after the competition.
- Criticize fellow spellers.
- Act in any way that may incite spellers, parents, and audience members to act in an unsportsmanlike manner.

Any speller who is unable to abide by this code of conduct may be disqualified and could be barred from competing in future competitions hosted by the Scripps National Spelling Bee, its participating schools, and its official partners.

Parent/Guardian/Spectator Expectations

The Scripps National Spelling Bee recognizes that spellers participate in spelling bees to have fun. We ask that parents/guardians/spectators understand this and be supportive of all involved.

Parents/guardians/spectators must be respectful toward everyone participating in and organizing the spelling bee. This includes spellers, officials, coordinators, parents, and audience members.

As a parent/guardian/spectator:

- Support your child and teach the values of fair honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of competition results or decisions of the officials.
- Show courtesy to spellers and officials.
- Direct questions and constructive criticism to event coordinators and staff, and work toward a positive result for all concerned.
- Accept decisions of officials and coordinators or appeal such decisions following the procedures set forth in the rules.
- Understand that decisions are made to the best ability of the officials.
- Recognize when a final decision has been made.

As a parent/guardian/spectator, do not:

- Criticize officials, spellers, coordinators and other audience members with direct abuse, profane language or hand gestures.
- Approach the stage or the officials' area, unless otherwise permitted.
- Use profanity or unsportsmanlike language before, during, or after the competition.
- Act in any way that may incite spellers, parents, and audience members to act in an unsportsmanlike manner.

Parents/guardians/spectators who are unable to abide by this code of conduct may be removed from the competition. Additionally, their speller could be disqualified, and potentially barred from future competitions hosted by the Scripps National Spelling Bee, its participating schools, and its official partners.



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Should anyone encounter such behavior during any SNSB-related competition, please promptly report the incident the relevant spelling bee organizers/coordinates and to spellingbee.com/contact.