



End-of-bee Procedure: What's new this year?

Headline: A speller who is the only one left after a round is immediately declared the champion.

If you follow the Scripps National Spelling Bee's *Suggested Rules for Spelling Bees*, the end-of-bee procedure is simpler this year. When only one speller remains at the end of a round because they were the only speller to spell correctly or answer a vocabulary question correctly, that speller is immediately declared the champion. The speller does not need to complete a separate single-word championship round.

How the simplified procedure works

- Three spellers remain in a round. Speller A spells correctly. Spellers B and C spell incorrectly. Speller A is immediately declared the champion.
- Two spellers remain in a round: Speller A incorrectly answers their vocab question. Speller B correctly answers their vocab question. Speller B is immediately declared the champion.

This change is meant to simplify the *Suggested Rules*, not limit local decision making.

Local spelling bee officials may still end their bee in the way that works best for their competition, including by using a one-word championship round to declare a champion. All decisions made by local spelling bee officials are final. The Scripps National Spelling Bee does not have jurisdiction over local spelling bees.

Questions you may have

1. Why are we making this change?

Answer: We heard from local spelling bee officials and Regional Partners that a separate single-word championship round can be confusing, especially when a potential championship word is misspelled and spellers have to be reinstated. This update is designed to make the end of a local bee easier to administer and easier for families, spellers and officials to understand.

2. Are the National rules changing as well?

No. The National Competition will continue to use a single-word championship round. This update only applies to the Scripps National Spelling Bee's *Suggested Rules for Spelling Bees*.

3. What do I do if I'm declaring multiple champions at my local bee?

If your local bee sends two, three or more spellers to the next level, end the competition when that number of spellers remains at the end of a round.

4. How do I break a tie?

For example, if you are declaring two champions and round eight begins with three spellers, but two spellers misspell in that round, you will have one clear champion and a tie for the second spot. To break the tie, continue with only the two spellers who misspelled in round eight. Keep going until only one of them spells correctly in a round.