

## KHNA Spelling Bee 2011 General Rules

The following rules are applicable to all contestants:

1. It is the responsibility of the contestant/parents to register their children on-line/by mail. **Contestant age should be between 9 and 15 years.**
2. It is the responsibility of the contestant to be present at the contest room 10 minutes before the contest starts. Latecomers will not be allowed to compete in the contests. The spelling and vocabulary contests shall be judged using Webster's Third New International Unabridged Dictionary, copyright 1986 or later version, Merriam-Webster Inc. Words shall be pronounced according to the diacritical markings of the dictionary.
3. The KHNA reserves the right to verify the date of birth and/or grade of the contestants and revoke the rank(s) and prize(s) in case of any discrepancy. The speller must not have reached his/her 15th birthday on or before August 31, 2011.
4. Spelling Bee will have two segments. First, will have a written segment consisting of 60 words. All spellers take the written 60 word Round One Test, which begins at 10:00 a.m. Spellers sit in assigned seats at tables in the center front section of the Ballroom and all other individuals sit in unreserved seats on a first-come, first-served basis. Contestants are responsible for bringing pencils and erasers.
5. The top 10 spellers will be invited to participate in the final Oral Test. Before the oral rounds begin, a random drawing will determine the order of the spellers. The oral rounds will consist of each speller, in the order in which his/her name was drawn, being given a word to spell orally. Each speller will remain in the oral rounds until such time as s/he incorrectly spells a word. When a speller misspells a word, a bell will sound and correct spelling will be provided. Eliminated spellers will leave the orals after the current round of words is completed. The judges' decisions are final and absolute on all.
6. The Pronouncer will pronounce each word at least twice and may designate its part of speech and language of origin, provide its definition, give its usage in a complete sentence, and pronounce it a third time. Any of the above information must be requested before the Speller begins to spell.
7. The Pronouncer will provide the above-mentioned information until such time as the Judges determine that the word has been properly and reasonably defined and illustrated. The Judges have the right to disqualify any Speller who declines a request to start spelling. Spellers have the right to request on-line pronunciation of their word if it is available. If the pronunciation is available but the Speller does not request it, no challenges based on pronunciation will be allowed.
8. The speller's time at the microphone has a limit of 2 minutes and 30 seconds. Time begins when the pronouncer first pronounces the word. For the first 1 minute and 45 seconds, the speller will have the benefit of viewing a monitor displaying a traffic light graphic in green light mode. After 1 minute and 45 seconds, the monitor will show the traffic light graphic in yellow light mode and will also show the time clock as it counts up to the 2-minute mark. At the 2-

minute mark, the monitor will show the traffic light graphic in red light mode and will also show a countdown of the remaining 30 seconds. The judges and pronouncer will not communicate with the speller during the final 30 seconds (red light mode). The judges will disqualify any speller who does not provide a complete spelling before the expiration of time (0 seconds in red light mode). If the judges and pronouncer need to discuss a competition-related matter while a speller is contemplating a word, they may pause the time clock, they will inform the speller when they pause and resume the time clock. Can they ask additional minutes?

9. **Parental interruption** in any form during the contest is **unacceptable** and the KHNA reserves the right to ask the parent(s) to leave the contest venue or face disqualification of the contestant.

10. A contestant has the right to dispute judge's decision and request a hearing before the start of the next round in spelling. Parents are not allowed to approach judges directly. Parents can submit a written complaint/dispute to Spelling Bee Advisor who will, based upon the merits of the claim, refer the matter to the judges at the end of that round. In any dispute, decision of the judges is final.

11. The KHNA reserves the right to conduct a tie-breaker and/or announce joint winners or declare winners based on criteria that it deems fit to end the contest in a timely manner.

12. **Any changes to the rules will be announced before the start of the competition, but the judges always have the right to change rules on site without prior notice if the situation warrants.** All decisions by the judges are final. Disqualifications for reasons other than clear misspelling: The judges will disqualify a speller (1) who refuses a request to start spelling; (2) who does not approach the microphone when it is time to receive the word; (3) who engages in unsportsmanlike conduct; (4) who, in the process of retracing a spelling, alters the letters or sequence of letters from those first uttered; or (5) who, in the process of spelling, utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds.

13. Depending on the number of contestants, medals and certificates may be given for the first, second and third place winners. There should be a minimum of 10 contestants to have all the three ranks declared; a minimum of 8 to 9 contestants to declare first and second ranks; a minimum of 5 contestants to have the first rank declared; and no ranks will be declared if there are less than 5 contestants.

14. **Neither Videography nor the use of cell cameras** is not permitted during the contests. The KHNA reserves the right to take photos and videos for its use.

15. No separate registration for spelling bee exists. Parents/ Participants should be registered for the KHNA event. If you withdraw from a contest after registering, your registration fee can be considered as a 100 percent tax-deductible donation to the KHNA and the registration fees are **non-refundable**

16. The KHNA conducts educational activities on a "best efforts basis" only for the sole benefit of the NRI community and the underprivileged in India. The KHNA, its officers, and volunteers are not responsible for any human error and consequent hardship, in any form, caused to any person(s) or organization(s).

17. The primary goal of these contests is to foster the spirit of competition and learning among the youth. Parents and children should focus on the joy of learning and interaction with other participants rather than on the possible outcome of the contest.

18. **The KHNA reserves the right to cancel a contest if there is not sufficient number of registrants. However, the KHNA, its officers, and volunteers are not responsible for any other consequences, in any form, as a result of such cancellation.**

19. A contest may not take place on the designated date under circumstances beyond the control of the KHNA. In such cases, the KHNA will try to reschedule the contest at a later date. However, the **KHNA, its officers, and volunteers are not responsible for any other consequences, in any form, as a result of such circumstances.**

20. Exact Spelling Bee venue, Date/Time will be announced at the time of registration check-in.

21. Contestant/parents should be a member of any organization affiliated to KHNA or a member of KHNA.

**NOTE: - Study material, Final written and Oral Test Instructions will be sends out after the registration.**

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