

General Rules

The following rules are applicable to all contests:

1. There will be **no on-site registration**. It is the responsibility of the contestant/parents to register their children on-line before the registration deadline as applicable.
2. It is the responsibility of the contestant to be present at the contest room 20 minutes before the contest starts. Latecomers will not be allowed to compete in the contests.
3. Lily Foundation 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.
4. 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.
5. Contestants are responsible for bringing pencils and erasers. Lily Foundation provides Phase I material for spelling, vocabulary, geography, math and essay writing contests.
6. **Parental interruption** in any form during the contest is **unacceptable** and we reserve the right to ask the parent(s) to leave the contest venue or face disqualification of the contestant.
7. A contestant has the right to dispute judge's decision and request a hearing before the start of the next round in spelling, vocabulary and geography bees. Parents are not allowed to approach judges directly. Parents can submit a written complaint/dispute to an onsite volunteer 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.
8. Lily Foundation 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.
9. 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.
10. **No videography nor the use of cell cameras** is permitted during the contests. Lily Foundation reserves the right to take photos and videos for its use. Parents are not permitted to copy questions or answers during the contest.
11. The registration fees are **non-refundable**. If you withdraw from a contest after registering, your registration fee can be considered as a 100 percent tax-deductible donation to the Foundation.
12. Lily Foundation conducts educational activities on a "best efforts basis" only for the sole benefit of the community and the underprivileged in India. Lily Foundation, 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).
13. 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.

14. Lily Foundation reserves the right to cancel a contest if there is not sufficient number of registrants. If a contest is cancelled after registration, we will refund the registration fees paid. However, Lily Foundation, its officers, and volunteers are not responsible for any other consequences, in any form, as a result of such cancellation.
15. A contest may not take place on the designated date under circumstances beyond our control. In such cases, we will try to reschedule the contest at a later date. In case the contest is not rescheduled, we will refund the registration fees paid. However, Lily Foundation, its officers, and volunteers are not responsible for any other consequences, in any form, as a result of such circumstances.

Contest Specific Rules

1. During the Initial Rounds, each candidate will spell a different word in each round. When they make their first mistake, they are still allowed to move on and continue with the next round. Upon making their second mistake they are eliminated from competition.
2. A round with a maximum of three candidates would be considered the Final Rounds
 - a. This will be a knock out round and no second chances in these rounds except for a tie situations.
 - b. In a given round, if one gets it wrong and other two get it right, we have the 3rd position and we will continue with the other two candidates.
 - c. If all three candidates get it right or they all get it wrong, that round will have no effect. All three will carry on with the next round.
 - d. If one gets it right, and other two get it wrong; we have the 1st position and we will continue with the other two candidates for 2nd and 3rd position.