

MedBee Rules and Criteria

1. **Eligibility:** The speller must be enrolled in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade and live in Maryland Senatorial District 37.
2. **Qualifying:** No more than 25 students from each Middle School within the District will compete in the MedBee.
 - When more than 25 students register to compete at any Middle School, qualifying rounds will be held two weeks (14 days) prior to the MedBee competition.
 - All MedBee rules will be adhered to during the qualifying rounds.
 - The qualifying rounds will be conducted until 25 students remain.
 - The top 25 students will participate in the final MedBee.
3. **Special needs spellers:** the MRHA will strive to accommodate spellers who have physical challenges. MedBee organizers will work with participating schools to determine if any special accommodations are to be made. Requests for special accommodations for special needs involving sight, hearing, speech, or movement will be directed to the MedBee organizers at least one month (30 days) in advance of the MedBee in the application to the MedBee. MedBee organizers will work with the special needs student, family, and/or teachers to determine how best to accommodate the special needs students and accommodations will be made.
4. **Format:** The MedBee will be conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the MedBee at the start of a round spells one word in each round. The MedBee will be an oral competition with elimination based on “miss and out” in the traditional Spelling Bee manner.
5. **Word List:** The MRHA will be responsible for selecting the word lists for use at each local/regional MedBee. All words on the MedBee are entries in “Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary, 31st Edition.” MedBee words are available at <http://mdruralhealth.org/membership.html>
6. **Student’s Preparation and Participation in MedBee:**
 - Instruct students to say “hyphen” when spelling a word that has a hyphen, i.e., x-ray would be spelled “x hyphen ray”.

- Instruct students to say the word “space” when there is a space in a word that has a space, i.e., digital imaging would be spelled “digital space imaging”.
- The speller faces the judges and pronounces the word for the judges before spelling it.
- The speller must audibly utter each letter of the word being spelled so that judges may hear the speller.
- The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, provide the part of speech, provide the language of origin, and/or provide an alternate pronunciation or pronunciations.
- Upon incorrectly spelling a word, the speller immediately drops out of the MedBee competition except for as provided in Rule 8.

7. **Pronouncer’s Role:** The pronouncer will strive to pronounce words according to the diacritical markings in Dorland’s Illustrated Medical Dictionary, 31st Edition. The Pronouncer will respond to speller’s requests for a definition, sentence, part of speech, language(s) of origin, and alternate pronunciation(s).

8. **Judges Role:** The judges uphold the rules and determine if words are spelled correctly. They render final decisions on appeals in accordance with Rule 8. The control the MedBee and their word are final. The judges ensure that all spellers and audience members are given a complete copy of the rules prior to the start of MedBee.

The judges listen to the speller and when they sense the speller’s is mispronouncing and/or has misunderstood the word, they may 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 will direct the pronouncer to correct any error in pronunciation that does not match the pronunciation specified according to diacritical markings.

Disqualification: The judges will disqualify a speller for any of the following reasons: (1) who does not meet the eligibility criteria; (2) who engage in unsportsmanlike conduct; (3) who in the process of spelling a word utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds; (4) who any time prior to the MedBee discloses any portion of MedBee content to a web site or an individual; or (5) who in the process of retracing a spelling, alters the letters or sequence of letters from those first uttered.

Activities that do not merit disqualification: (1) for failing to pronounce a word before or after spelling it; (2) for asking a question; and, (3A) for noting or failing to note the capitalization of a word.

9. End of MedBee Procedures:

If all MedBee spellers misspell words in a round, all remain in competition and a new round begins.

If only one speller in a round spells correctly, a new one-word round begins and the speller is given a chance to spell the next word on the list (the anticipated championship word). If the speller spells the anticipated championship word correctly, he/she is declared the MedBee champion. If the speller misspells the word in the one-word round, ALL spellers from the previous round participate in a new round in their original order.