



RULES OF THE HIVE

1. Each team will consist of three or four members (age 50+), including the captain.
2. Teams must sign in by 12 noon. Teams are assigned a number and will go to the corresponding table.
3. The Spellmaster will say the word, give its definition, use it in a sentence, and pronounce the word once more.
4. Every team spells the same word. One designated member per team will write the team's response on the whiteboard (or chalkboard).
5. Teams are given 30 seconds to collaborate and write the chosen spelling of the word on the board. When the judge's bell rings, a team member must stand up with their board to show the judges. Any team continuing to write, or changing the word once the bell has rung, will be disqualified. The word and letters must be visually clear or the word will be treated as a misspell.
 - a. when the word is a homophone, only the correct spelling of the defined word will be accepted
 - b. spelling must be Canadian version
 - c. capitalization of words is not required
6. Do not erase the board until being advised if your spelling is correct or not.
7. If your team has misspelled, one of two things happen:
 - a. Your team is eliminated, and the balloon on your table is popped
 - OR
 - b. Your team uses a pardon option
8. A pardon allows a team to stay in the competition. Two pardons are allowed per team, except in the Championship round.
 - a. If they were pre-purchased, the team's table will have a corresponding number of bee markers. The team captain will raise one bee marker within 10 seconds of being advised of a misspell. Team goes into the next round.
 - b. If pardons were not pre-purchased, the team captain can raise a swatter from the table (within 10 seconds) to indicate desire to purchase a pardon. Team goes into the next round.
 - c. Pre-purchased pardons are not refundable even if they are not used.
9. If all teams misspell the word in play, no team will be eliminated on that word.
10. When only two teams are left, the Championship round begins:
 - a. As soon as one team misspells a word, the other team is asked to spell the same word
 - b. If the second team also misspells the word, competition continues
 - c. If the second team spells the word correctly, they are given an additional word. **If it is also spelled correctly, this team is declared the winner.**
 - d. If the second team misspells the additional word, the first team is asked to spell that word as in a., b. and c. above, until a winner is declared.
 - e. The winning team must correctly spell two words in a row to be declared champion.
11. The official dictionary will be the Canadian Oxford Dictionary. No practice lists will be given out, and spellers should expect any word from this dictionary could be used.
12. The judges will resolve all disputes.
13. No appeals.
14. Paid staff of the Barrie Literacy Council, Kozlov Centre and Focus 50+ News Magazine are not eligible to compete.

The Barrie Literacy Council reserves the right to make changes to the rules or the event, as it deems necessary.

