

THE 11TH EDITION

NAGALAND SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

Theme: *"The Learning Edge"*

Organised by the Fountain Club in collaboration with State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT) Government of Nagaland.

Competition Rules & Regulations

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1. Eligibility Criteria

The Participant (henceforth shall be call the Speller) qualifying for the 11th Nagaland Spelling Bee Championship 2026 must meet the following criteria:

- a. Two Spellers each from one educational institute/school will be eligible to participate in the 2026 edition.
- b. The Speller must be a regular enrolled under registered Nagaland Board of School Education (NBSE) or any other nationality recognized Board in Nagaland.
- c. The standard of the Speller should be minimum Class VI (six) and maximum class IX (nine).
- d. The Speller must have full endorsement from their concern School/Institution authority.
- e. The Speller must not bypass or circumvent normal school activity to prepare for the championship.
- f. The Organiser may disqualify prior to or during the competition any Speller not in compliance with any of the above eligibility criteria.

2. Stages of Competition

There shall be two distinct stages of competition:

- A. Preliminary stage on the **First day** and
- B. The Final stages on the **Second day**.

A. Preliminary stage

- a. In the preliminary stage, a Speller will be given 8 (eight) words to spell with 60 seconds time each to answer from the Pronouncer's list.
- b. There will be no minimum qualifying word in the preliminary stages for a Speller to be selected to the Final stages.
- c. 32 spellers shall be selected for the next round taking the higher scorers. In the event of tie amongst the lower aggregate to occupy the required slots, there shall be Tie-Breaker on Knock-Out basis where the Tie Spellers shall be called to spell additional number of words. The Tie-Breaker shall continue till the 32 slots are exactly filled.

B. Final Stages

- a. In the Round of **32** and **16**, each Spellers will be given 5 (five) words with 90 seconds time to spell each word.
- b. In the Round of **8**, each Spellers will be selected through Direct Knock-out within 90 seconds time to spell each word.
- c. To advance from the Rounds of 32 to 16 to 8 and in cases of ties the Spellers shall be selected in the same principle as in Preliminary Round (c).

3. 'Conditions to determine the Final Round for Bee Championship'

When the number of Spellers is down to TWO, the following thumb rule will determine the Spelling Bee Champion:

- i). LOT will be drawn to determine their turns, Say Speller A & Speller B.
- ii). The Competition will begin by giving one word each to both the Speller.
- iii). If both the Spellers correctly spelled or misspelled the given words, then the competition will continue as in condition (i) & (ii).
- iv). In case, a Speller (Say A) misspelled the word given, the same word will be passed on to the next Speller (Say B).
- v). If the Speller (Say B) spelled the pass word correctly, then He/She will be given a new word in the pronouncer's list to spell and if the word is correctly spelled, then, the Speller will be declared Champion.
- vi). But if the new word is mis-spelled then the same will be passed on to the next speller.
- vii). If a passed word is spelled correctly, then He/She will also be given a new word in the pronouncers list, to seal the Championship.
- viii). In the eventuality of a Speller (Say A) getting the direct word correct and the other Speller (Say B) misspelled the given direct word, then the misspelled word shall be given to the other Speller (Say A) and if the Speller spelled correctly, then the spellers who spelled two words correctly (Direct and Pass) shall be declared the Champion.
- ix). Conditions (v), (vii) & (viii) maybe eventualities of determining the Champion.
- x). In spite of giving enough opportunities of getting 10 (ten) direct words each, if none of the Spellers correctly spelled two words (one direct and one passed) consecutively, then the Champion shall be declared on aggregate as who spelled the most number of words (direct or passed) correctly.

xi). In the eventuality of TWO Spellers spelling correctly, equal number of words on aggregate, championship title will be decided by the number of direct words spelled correctly.

xii). In the event of a Tie, despite the above mentioned conditions, a Tie breaker in the form of giving 5 (five) words each to the Spellers and the Speller who spelled the most words correctly will be declared Champion.

4. Official Dictionary Reference

The Oxford Dictionary and its addenda section will be the final references and authority for the spelling of words. All words given in the Championship will be entries from the Oxford Dictionary only.

5. Time

a). The Time starts when the pronouncer first pronounced the word.

b). If the Judges and Pronouncer need to discuss/consult a competition related matter while a Speller is contemplating a word, the Time-keeper will pause the time clock, and will inform the Speller when paused or resumed.

c). The Judges may disqualify any Speller score who does not provide a complete spelling of a given word or pronounce the spelled word within the allotted time.

6. Pronouncer

i). The Pronouncer will pronounce the words correctly to the Spellers provided in the Pronouncer's list as referred in the Oxford Dictionary.

ii). *Homonym* : If a word is homonym, the Pronouncer will indicate which word is to be spelled by defining the word given to the Speller.

iii). *Speller's request* : During the competition, the Pronouncer may respond to the Speller's requests for a definition, sentence, part of speech, language(s) of origin and alternative pronunciations, etc. The Pronouncer may grant such requests as long as they are in accordance to the allotted time.

iv). *Pronouncer's assistance* : The Pronouncer's may offer more information- with /without the Speller requesting the information.

7. Judges

i). The Judges shall uphold the competition Rules and Regulations to determine whether or not the words are spelled correctly. The Judges in consultation with the Jury Board will adjudicate all matters pertaining to the championship. Amongst the Judges, a Chief Judge will be selected, to be a member of the Jury Board.

ii). *Interaction with the Speller* : During the course of competition, seeing Lips movement may be critical/confusing in detecting misunderstandings or misspellings, the Judge(s) can direct the Speller to face the Pronouncer and the Judges while pronouncing and spelling the word.

iii). *Misunderstanding* : The Judges may participate/intervene in the exchange of information between the Speller and the Pronouncer, if they feel that clarification is needed. Also, the Judges may listen carefully to the Speller's pronunciation of word: and if they sense that the Speller has misunderstood the word, then the Judges can work with the Speller and Pronouncer until they are satisfied that reasonable attempts have been made to assist the Speller in understanding the given word within the allotted time.

The Judges are responsible for attempting to detect a Speller's misunderstanding, however, the Judges are not responsible for the Speller's misunderstanding.

iv). *Pronunciation* : The Judges shall compare the Pronouncer's pronunciation with the diacritical markings in the word list. If the Judges feel that the Pronouncer's pronunciation does not match the pronunciation specified in the accent markings, the Judges will direct the Pronouncer to correct the error as soon as it is detected. A new word will be given in the event of objection on the word pronunciation with the consent of the Judges. The Judges will resolve any/all disputes concerning pronunciation, time and in consultation with the Jury Board will adjudicate all matters pertaining to the championship.

8. Jury Board

The Jury Board will comprise of Technical Committee members, Convenor, Organising Committee and Chief Judge to adjudicate all matters relating to:

- Disqualification of Spellers,
- Declaration of Champion and
- Any controversies or disputes arising out of the competitions.

9. Speller

i). The Speller must face the Judge and pronounce the word before and after spelling it. The Speller while facing the Judge must pronounce each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by the Judges.

ii). The Speller may request the Pronouncer to repeat the word again, define it, use it in a sentence, provide the part of speech, language(s) of origin and /or provide any alternate pronunciation or pronunciations.

iii). The speller may also ask for a change in the sequence of letter spelt if the word is not being completely spelt and pronounce and if stipulated time remains so. However, the speller will not be allowed the retrace the letters if the word asked has been completely spelt and pronounced once

iv). After the Pronouncer give a word, the Speller are encouraged to pronounce the word before and after spelling it. There will be no disqualification of the Spellers for failing to pronounce the word correctly.

v). *Misunderstanding*:

The Speller is responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless

1. The Pronouncer never provided a correct pronunciation;

2. The Pronouncer provided incorrect information regarding the definition, part of speech, or language of origin;
or

3. The Speller correctly spelled a homonym of the word and the Pronouncer failed to either offer a definition or distinguish the homonym.

10. Time keeper

The Time Keeper will in correspondence with the Pronouncer's pronouncement of the word for the Speller to spell, will mark the starting and simultaneously indicate the end of the time allotted to the Speller. When the Judge(s) and Pronouncer are in discussion to a competition-related matter while a Speller is contemplating a word, the Time keeper at the notification of the Judge/Pronouncer will pause the time clock and will inform the Speller when paused and resumed the remaining time.

11. Scorer

The Scorer in confirmation to the Spellers correct and incorrect- responses and to the interpretation of the Judge verdict will maintain the score records of the Spellers.

12. Disqualification

The Judge will disqualify a Speller on the following points:

- a. Who refuses a request to start spelling;
- b. Who does not approach the microphone when it is time to receive the word;
- c. Who engages in un-sportsman like conduct;
- d. Who in the process of spelling, utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds; or in the event, when the action of a Speller supporter is found inappropriate by the Judges, Pronouncers and Organisers such a whispers, lips or letter guiding indications etc.

Spellers activities that do not merit disqualification:

The judge may not disqualify a speller:

- e. For failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it,
- f. For asking a question, or
- g. For noting or failing to note the capitalisation of a word or the presence of a diacritical mark.

13. Young Speller Award: Amongst the Spellers, a young '**Speller Award**' will be decided by the Judges, pronouncers and Organisers according to their performance.

- i. Judging on the performance of the younger Spellers (class wise), especially the stage reached in the competition, a Young Speller shall be declared for the Award. However, position holder of 4th, 3rd, 2nd and Champion shall not be considered for the same.
- ii. In case of young Spellers of the same standard (class) reaching the same level/stage of the competition, the maximum number of words correctly spelled in the preceeding stages shall be considered.

14. Promising Speller Award.

Amongst the Spellers, a Promising '**Speller Award**' will be decided by the Judges, pronouncers and Organisers according to their performance.

- i. Judging on the performance of the Promising Spellers (class wise), especially the stage reached in the competition, a Promising Speller shall be declared for the Award. However, position holder of 4th, 3rd, 2nd and Champion shall not be considered for the same.
- ii. In case of Promising Spellers of the same standard (class) reaching the same level/stage of the competition, the maximum number of words correctly spelled in the preceeding stages shall be considered.

15. Organisers

The organisers will oversee all aspects of organising the Championship successfully.

Sd/-

Organising Committee

10th Nagaland Spelling Bee Championship 2023

POINTS TO BE NOTED

1. Last date for submission of forms through e-mail fountainclubkma@gmail.com on or before 10th October, 2026. And, the hard copies of Entry form and passport photos can be submitted on the day of the competition, during the registration time.
2. A sum of Rupees 200/- (Two hundred) only will be realized from the Speller as Registration Fee on arrival.
3. The Organisers request the esteem Educational School/ Institution to kindly bear the expenses of their respective participant(s).
4. Food and accommodation will be provided to the Speller for free and accompanying faculty at discount rates on request. Free refreshment will be provided during the competition.
5. The Speller are encouraged to be in full school uniforms for the Championship.
6. The Speller must wear the participant badge provided by the Organisers.
7. The Speller will not be allowed to avail aiding materials i.e., marking pens, pencil, any electronic gadgets and papers while on the podium spelling the words.
8. The lodgers are requested to bring their own light bedrolls.
9. Spellers failing to report on time to the Venue during Championship will stand automatically disqualified.
10. The Spellers / School authorities are requested to thoroughly comprehend all the Competition Rules and Regulations of the Championship.
11. All the Spellers must enclose in the form, 2 (two) copies of recent passport photo (thumb size color).
12. All detail Competition Rules and Regulations along with the entry form can be downloaded from www.fountainclub.in, www.morungexpress.com and www.excellogics.co.in

**** Entry Forms can also be mailed to fountainclubkma@gmail.com**

(For further informed kindly contact # 9856071077 / 9366987455 / 9077643068

Sd/-

Organising Committee

10th Nagaland Spelling Bee Championship 2023

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Form I (One)

“11th Nagaland Spelling Bee Championship 2026”

“The learning Edge”

Organised by Fountain Club, Kohima in collaboration with SCERT, Nagaland

Photo paste and Signature across.....

Participation Form Place: Student’s Signature

1. Name: Page 7 of 8.....
2. Surname: Form II (Two).....
3. F/Name: **Undertaking**.....
4. Date of Birth / Age: **To be filled by the Student/ Participant**
5. Gender:
6. Community:
7. Name of School:
8. Class/ Standard:
9. District:
10. Hobbies:
11. Ambition:
12. Contact No. of Participant:

E-mail Address:

13. Contact No. of School/ Teacher In-charge:

14. Accommodation required: Yes/ No

(For Participant)

15.

Accommodat

ion required:

Yes/No

(For

Accompanyin

g)

16. Food:

Veg/ Non

Veg

I hereby

declared that

the above

statements/

details are

true to the

best of my

knowledge,

any false

statement(s)

so detected

shall subject

to

disqualificati

on.

I, Mr. / Ms. of School/ Institute do hereby undertake that I shall abide with all the Rules and Regulations of the 11th Nagaland Spelling Bee Championship 2026 as laid down by the Organisers. And shall accept all the interpretations and decisions of the Organizers as may be imposed.

Date:

Place: Student's Signature

2. To be filled by the Head of the Educational Institution or Competent Authority

The Principal/ Head of the Institution of school/ Institute of

District is pleased to recommend and endorse the below mentioned student for participation in the 11th Nagaland Spelling Bee Championship 2026, organised by the Fountain Club Kohima in collaboration with the State Council of Education Research & Training (SCERT) Nagaland. The Institute/ I. have read the Rules and Regulations of the Championship and shall abide with them. The Particulars of the participating students are:-

Name:

Reading in Class):

Commendable Academic Records of the Students if any:

.....

Extra-Curricular Records of the Students if any:

.....

I hereby declare that the above statements/ Details are true to the best of my knowledge, any false statement(s) so detected shall be subjected to disqualification.

Date: Signature:

Place: Designation:

Official Seal: