Spelling Bee Rules
from www.spelling-words-well.com

Here are some basic rules for classroom spelling bees.

1. The pronouncer announces the word to be spelled. He speaks slowly and clearly, without distorting the normal pronunciation of the word. He uses the word in a sentence and says the word again.

2. The speller listens carefully to the pronouncer and asks for the word to be repeated if necessary.

3. When the speller is sure she understands the word, she pronounces it, spells it and then says the word again. She must say it loudly enough for the judge to hear it.

4. The judge(s) determines whether or not the word was spelled correctly.

5. If the correct spelling was given, the speller remains in the game.

6. If the spelling was incorrect, that speller is eliminated from the game. The judge gives the correct spelling of that word. Then the pronouncer reads a new word to the next student.

7. When there are only two spellers left, if one player misspells a word, the other player must spell that word correctly, plus one more word to be declared the winner of the spelling bee.

Those are really all the rules you need for a simple classroom game.

Feel free to adapt to your own situation. We recognize that often the pronouncer and judge will be the same person -- the classroom teacher.

Optional Rules
For older students and for larger spelling bees, such as a competition among several classes or an entire school, it will be helpful to spell out (pardon our pun) such details as:

- In what order students will spell
- Where spellers will sit on stage
- When spellers will exit the stage after misspelling a word
- What time spellers must arrive at the competition
- How much time spellers have to complete a word
- Whether spellers can start over on the spelling of a word