



IBS Media Awards

Awards Deadlines and Important Dates:

Submission Dates

Contest Open for Submissions: September 2, 2025

Final Entry Deadline:

Received by Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Finalists Announced:

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Awards Presentation:

Saturday, February 21, 2026 at the 86th International IBS Conference
Sheraton Times Square - New York City, New York



IBS Media Awards

Any student from an IBS member institution is eligible to enter the awards competition. Awards will be presented to the station, not individual members; therefore students must enter the competition through their school to be eligible.

Rules for 2025-2026 IBS Awards

- Entries must be submitted through the link at www.ibsradio.org
- ***Entries will only be judged if submitted through our website above. No exceptions.***
- Entries must be less than 100MB in size to upload to our site. Links to offsite hosts for larger files will be accepted but must be submitted through the IBS awards page.
- When uploading entries, please select the appropriate category, whether you are from a high school or college, and double check all spellings (especially names).
- Be sure to follow the requirements provided for each individual category. They have changed this year and failure to follow them may result in disqualification.
- Due to the increase in the number of entries, those who do not follow the above guidelines may be disqualified.
- There is a limit of three entries per school, per category for all of our awards. Also each entry may only be entered in one category.
- Entries must have aired on the IBS member station between December 4, 2024 and October 22, 2025. Programs aired after the final deadline will be eligible for next year's competition regardless of whether or not the student is still enrolled.
- By entering this contest, you give IBS permission to use your entry for promotional purposes, but you retain the full rights.
- At the discretion of the judges, awards in all categories may not be given out due to either lack of number in entries or lack of quality entries.
- **Awards entries are \$10 per entry for members (with a maximum of \$350 per school). *Not a member? You can join or renew now by emailing ibs@ibsradio.org for details! Every station that is a member or renews by November 1 gets ten (10) free entries!***

- The IBS Awards are open to all IBS Members in good standing. Stations who are not current IBS members are welcome to submit their entries, but in order to be considered your station must be a current member (or renew/join IBS) by December 15, 2025. Entries from stations who are not current members as of December 31, 2025 may be disqualified.
- Each and every finalist in every single IBS Awards category will receive a certificate, and winners will receive a trophy. These are provided free of charge which by IBS if you complete the following:

Important Updates!

- o If at least one attendee registers for IBSNYC 2026 by December 31, 2025 winner trophies will be provided to your school free of charge at the conference.
- o Schools who register after December 31, 2025 will have their winner trophies sent to them at a cost of \$25 per trophy.
- o Schools who do not have at least one attendee register for IBSNYC 2026 and wish to receive trophies can order them beginning March 9, 2025 at the link on www.ibsradio.org.
- Finalist Trophies will be available for purchase after the conference in February 2026 online at www.ibsradio.org for schools who still wish to receive them. The cost will be \$25 per finalist trophy. Additional winner trophies are also available for purchase at the cost of \$49 per trophy.
- Judges will score each entry and those scoring in the top ten percent of each category will be named finalists. The winner of each category will be revealed at our awards ceremony on Saturday at the 86th Annual IBS Conference.
- Any violation of these rules will result in the disqualification of the entry. Decisions of the judges are final.

Reminders

Entries are completely online. Follow these simple steps:

- 1. Upload your entries by October 22, 2025 to our website at: www.ibsradio.org**
- 2. Member schools receive 10 free entries per year. Additional entries are \$10 per entry (with a maximum of \$350 per school). Need to join or renew? Email ibs@ibsradio.org to get started.**
- 3. Register for IBS NYC 2026 by December 31, 2025 to ensure that your trophies are at the conference and free of charge to your school!**



IBS Media Awards

News & Public Affairs: N01 - Best Newscast

N02 - Best News Feature Story

N03 - Best Spot News

N04 - Best Campus or Community News Coverage

N05 – Best Political News Coverage

N06 – Best News Interview

Categories N01 to N06 should be unedited samples or complete broadcasts. Entries must be 5 minutes in length or under.

Sports:

S01 - Best Sports Play-by-Play, Football*

S02 - Best Sports Play-by-Play, Men's Basketball *

S03 - Best Sports Play-by-Play, Women's Basketball *

S04 - Best Sports Play-by-Play, Baseball/Softball *

S05 - Best Sports Play-by-Play, Hockey*

S06 - Best Sports Play-by-Play, Other *

** For all play-by-play categories, entries may be edited and should be no longer than 10 minutes in length*

S07 - Best Sports Talk Program (*can be edited, maximum 30 minutes*)

S08 - Best Sports Update (*unedited, maximum 5 minutes*)

S09 – Best Sports Interview (*unedited, maximum 5 minutes*)

S10 – Best Sports Pre-Post Game Show (*edited, max 10 minutes*)

Production:

- P01 - Best Promo Series (*submit up to three (3) promos as one mp3 file*)
- P02 - Best Station or Event Promo (*60 seconds or under*)
- P03 - Best Show Promo (*60 seconds or under*)
- P04 - Best Show Intro (*60 seconds or under*)
- P05 - Best Public Service Announcement (*30 or 60 seconds*)
- P06 – Best Use of Sound Effects (*60 seconds or under*)
- P07 - Best Liner/Sweeper (*30 seconds or under*)
- P08 - Best Station ID (*30 seconds or under*)
- P09 – Best Underwriting/Commercial Spot (*60 seconds or under*)

On-Air:

- A01 - Best On-Air Personality
- A02 - Best Specialty Music Show
- A03 – Best Live Music Broadcast
- A04 - Best Talk Program
- A05 - Best Specialty Show (Non-Music)
- A06 – Best Celebrity or Artist/Band Interview
- A07 – Best Community Volunteer Program/Personality

*Categories A01 to A07 should be edited samples of the programs.
Entries must be 5 minutes in length or under.*

- A08 – Best Radio Drama (*No more than a 30 minute sample*)
- A09 - Best Documentary (*No more than a 30 minute sample*)
- A10 - Best Public Affairs Program (*No more than a 30 minute sample*)
- A11 – Best Morning Show (*send an edited 10 minute sample*)
- A12 – Best Comedy Program (*send an edited 10 minute sample*)
- A13 – Best On-Air Pledge Drive (*send an edited 10 minute sample*)
- A14 – Best Foreign Language Program (*send an edited 10 minute sample*)

Marketing:

- M01 - Best Station Promotional Event
- M02 – Best Community Outreach Event

Marketing *continued*: M03 – Best Logo

M04 – Best Station Promotional Poster

M05 – Best Show Promotional Poster

M06 – Best Giveaway

M07 – Best Press Release

Web/On-Line:

W01 - Best Website

W02 – Best Podcast (*No more than a 5 minute sample*)

W03 – Best Station Blog

W04 - Best Social Media campaign (a coordinated campaign for either a station or a show).

W05 - Best Social Media account (must be an actively posting account for either a station or a show)

W06 - Best Phone App

W07 – Best Use of Video in radio studio video

Video/Television:

V01 – Best Newscast

V02 – Best News Report

V03 – Best Sports Program

V04 – Best Sports Report

V05 – Best Sports Play-By-Play broadcast

V06 – Best Comedy Program

V07 – Best Variety Program

V08 – Best Talk Program

V09 – Best Promotional Spot

V10 – Best Use of Graphics

V11 – Best Commercial/Promotion

Overall:

B01 - Best High School Radio Station

B02 – Best Community Radio College Station

B03 – Best College/University Radio Station (under 10,000 students)

B04 – Best College/University Radio Station (more than 10,000 students)

Overall continued:

B05 – Best Streaming/On-Line Only Radio Station (under 10,000 students)

B06 – Best Streaming/On-Line Only Radio Station (more than 10,000 students)

B07 – Best High School Television Station

B08 – Best Community College Television Station

B09 – Best College/University Television Station

For categories B01 to B09, you must submit one of the following:

An edited montage of programming highlighting your station
- or - a letter that describes in detail why your station should be selected as station of the year.

Please include in your audio or written entry: What makes your station unique? How do you serve the campus and the surrounding community (if applicable)? Show us your programming strategy or focus, management structure, training, etc. Maximum 10 minutes for audio or TWO PAGES for written (font size no smaller than 12 please).

New for 2025-2026

When determining Stations of the Year, judges will consider your audio/written submission, plus the following:

- Judges will take into consideration the overall quality of entries from your station in ALL CATEGORIES of the awards.
- Judges will listen to your station LIVE at unannounced times to hear your programming, production, etc.
- Judges will visit your social media, websites, blogs and podcasts as well.

Abraham & Borst Award for Best Overall Radio Station

In order to compete for the Abraham & Borst Award for Best Overall Radio Station in the Nation, you will need to submit to one of the six radio station categories above (as it applies to your school) and win that category. The judges will then look at the Best Radio Station award winners and name one “best in show.” They will receive the Abraham & Borst Award.

Len Mailloux Student Management Awards:

T01 – Best Student Station Manager, Radio

T02 – Best Student Station Manager, Television

T03 – Best Program Director, Radio

T04 – Best Music Director, Radio

T05 – Best Promotions Director, Radio

Management cont:

- T06 – Best Promotions Director, Television
- T07 – Best Social Media Director, Radio
- T08 - Best Social Media Director, Television
- T09 – Best News Director, Radio
- T10 – Best News Director, Television
- T11 – Best Sports Director, Radio
- T12 – Best Sports Director, Television
- T13 – Best Production Director, Radio
- T14 – Best Creative Services Director, Television
- T15 – Best Business Director, Radio
- T16 – Best Business Director, Television
- T17 – Best Student Staff Member (Non-Management), Radio
- T18 – Best Student Staff Member (Non-Management), Television
- T19 – Best Graduate Advisor, Radio or Television
- T20 – Best Faculty Advisor, Radio
- T21 – Best Faculty Advisor, Television
- T22– *Tom Gibson* Award for Outstanding Radio Engineering (can be student or faculty)

For categories T01 to T22, submit a nomination letter through the link at www.ibsradio.org

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Questions? Don't hesitate to email ibs@ibsradio.org for help!