



IBS Media Awards

Awards Deadlines and Important Dates:

Contest Open for Submissions: September 9, 2026

Final Entry Deadline:

Received by Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Finalists Announced on or about:

Tuesday, December 1, 2026

Awards Presentation:

Saturday, February 27, 2027 at the 87th 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 2026-2027 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 October 22, 2025 and October 21, 2026. 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 October 21 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, 2026. Entries from stations who are not current members as of December 15, 2026 may be disqualified.
- All winners will receive one trophy. These are provided free of charge which by IBS if you complete the following:

Important Updates!

- If at least one attendee registers for IBSNYC 2027 by December 31, 2026 winner trophies will be provided to your school free of charge at the conference.
- Schools who register after December 31, 2026 will have their winner trophies sent to them at a cost of \$39 per trophy - subject to change based on cost of trophy to IBS at the time of the request.
- Schools who do not have at least one attendee register for IBSNYC 2027 and wish to receive trophies can order them beginning March 1, 2027 at the link on www.ibsradio.org.
- Finalist Trophies will be available for purchase after the conference in February 2027 online at www.ibsradio.org for schools who still wish to receive them. The cost will be \$39 for winner trophies and \$29 for finalist trophies.
- 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 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 21, 2026 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 2027 by December 15, 2026 to ensure that your trophies are at the conference and free of charge to your school!



IBS Media Awards

Radio/Audio Categories

Entries in these categories should be in an audio format. No videos please (with the exception of W07)

News & Public Affairs: N01 - Best Newscast (*unedited, maximum 5 minutes*)

N02 - Best News Feature Story (*unedited, maximum 5 minutes*)

N03 - Best Spot News (*unedited, maximum 5 minutes*)

N04 - Best Campus/Community News (*unedited, maximum 5 minutes*)

N05 – Best Political News Coverage (*unedited, maximum 5 minutes*)

N06 – Best News Interview (*unedited, maximum 5 minutes*)

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 3 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 Spanish Language Program (*send an edited 10 minute sample*)
- A15 – 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*

**Categories M01 to M07 should be submitted as one-page PDF documents.*

Web/On-Line: W01 - Best Website (*upload link to website*)

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

W03 – Best Station Blog (*upload link to website*)

W04 - Best Social Media campaign (*upload a one-page PDF that showcases your campaign*)

W05 - Best Social Media account (*upload link to active page*)

W06 - Best Phone App (*upload link to download*)

W07 – Best Use of Video in radio studio video (*can be edited, max 5 minutes*)

Overall: B01 - Best High School Radio Station

B02 – Best Community Radio College Station

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

B04 – Best College/University Radio Station (over 10k students)

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

B06 – Best Streaming/On-Line Only Radio Station (over 10k students)

Abraham & Borst Award for Best Overall Radio Station: To compete for this award, you need to submit in one of the six categories above and win that category. One station will be named *Best in Show* and receive this award.

For categories B01 to B06, 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

Please include in your audio or written entry: What makes your station unique? How do you serve the campus and/or community ? 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).

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

Video Categories

Entries in these categories should be in a video format. No audio only entries please

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:

- B07 – Best High School Television Station
- B08 – Best Community College Television Station
- B09 – Best College/University Television Station

*For categories B07 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 video or written entry: What makes your station unique? How do you serve the campus and/or community ? 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).

Important Update

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

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
- 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 as a PDF file through the link at www.ibsradio.org

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