

Categories for 2019 IBNA News Contest—TELEVISION
Receipt Deadline is 5 p.m. on February 11, 2020

1. **SPOT NEWS COVERAGE** - A recorded or live report of a breaking story, not a pre-planned event. Criteria include clarity, editing, scripting, delivery, thoroughness, speed with which the story is covered, ability to place the audience at the scene, and indication to the audience of the significance/consequences of the event. The entry can include details of when the story broke, how soon after that the entry aired, what reports followed, etc. Compilation of same-day coverage is allowed.

2. **NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY** - Video which may be part of a news assignment or a feature aired primarily for photographic quality. Criteria include quality, editing, imagination, impact on the viewer, and the ability to tell a story visually. Compilation entries are not allowed.

3. **FEATURE** - A single story aired with the intent to provide relief from the impact of hard news stories. Criteria include human interest, delivery, production values, and the ability to evoke audience emotion. ("Hard news" features should be entered in another category, such as general reporting.)

4. **IN-DEPTH/SERIES** - An expanded report or series that provides background and understanding of a specific news event or issue. Entries should go beyond the traditional spot news story.

5. **PUBLIC AFFAIRS** - A single program or a series of programs that address one or more issues of importance to the community and, by providing information or advocating action, helps the community understand or deal with the issue(s). Written background information on the issues should be provided to aid the judges. Audience or community feedback as a result of the story can also be attached.

6. **FARM AND AGRIBUSINESS** - A single story or series on one topic that demonstrates the station's commitment to reporting on farm and/or agribusiness issues. Entry should not include market reports.

7. **SPORTS COVERAGE** - Coverage of sports figures or events, but not play-by-play. Entries should be reports that give the audience an insight into the person or event.

8. **SPORTS PLAY-BY-PLAY** - Locally originated coverage of athletic contests. An entire game should not be submitted. Criteria include flexibility, vividness and enthusiasm. No network feeds but flagship stations in Iowa may enter. Compilation entries are encouraged; a compilation should not exceed 20 minutes. "Highlight" shows should be entered in the Sports Coverage category. For broadcasts on over-the-air, cable or satellite television or online web stream.

9. **POLITICAL COVERAGE** - Coverage of politics, including elections. Entries should be reports that give meaning to the issues and the candidates, or breaking coverage of importance. A compilation of coverage should not exceed 20 minutes.

10. **GENERAL REPORTING** - A general news story. It should not be spot news, but this category is designed for "hard news", instead of "feature" stories.

11. **EXCELLENCE IN REPORTING** – A compilation, not to exceed 10 minutes, demonstrating the reporter's ability to present material in a clear, understandable manner; write in a creative and engaging manner; and provide the audience with clear relevance of the topic.

12. **EXCELLENCE IN ANCHORING** – A compilation, not to exceed 10 minutes, demonstrating the anchor's or anchor team's credibility, presentation skills, and competence.

13. **EXCELLENCE IN WEATHER COVERAGE** – Not to exceed 30 minutes (compilations are allowed), demonstrating the station's competence, understandability and commitment to news coverage of weather-related stories/events, involving multiple sources of information.

14. **FLOOD COVERAGE (SPECIAL 2019)**– This is a special category for this year due to the large amount of flooding in the state. This category is designed to show your ability to cover the ongoing flood event. Entries can include spot news coverage – as well as ongoing coverage. Compilations should not exceed 10 minutes..

15. **BEST NEWSCAST** - IBNA designates six "contest days" each year, with notice given to stations. TV dates for 2019 were: March 18, June 11, August 1st, October 1st, November 25th, December 18th. Enter ONLY newscasts aired on those designated days. A station may submit multiple newscasts. While entries may include national/international material supplied by networks, judges are instructed to disregard such stories in their evaluation.

16. **BEST SPORTSCAST** - IBNA designates six "contest days" each year, with notice given to stations. TV dates for 2019 were: March 18, June 11, August 1st, October 1st, November 25th, December 18th. Enter ONLY newscasts aired on those designated days. A station may submit multiple newscasts. While entries may include national/international material supplied by networks, judges are instructed to disregard such stories in their evaluation.

17. **OVERALL EXCELLENCE** – A compilation, not to exceed 20 minutes, demonstrating the station's commitment to high journalistic ideals, commitment to community and ability to cover the big story.