



## 2025 IHSA JOURNALISM STATE FINALS: TV NEWS

### DIRECTIONS & RULES

A team of one to three students will provide their own equipment to record, edit and create an electronic video file of a news package that is at least 90 seconds long, but can be no longer than 120 seconds. Students shall be judged on the effective use of audio and video to engage their audience and tell the story.

Each story must end with: "Reporting from Abraham High School, this is (reporter's name) with TV16."

### ASSIGNMENT

The News Director at Abraham High School's WAHS TV16 Station (Middleland, Ill.) has assigned you to attend a press conference hosted by Special Olympics Illinois (SOIL) in the Heartland Community College Auditorium.

Michelle Mayer, the Senior Director of Marketing & Communications for SOIL will speak first to provide some background on SOIL. She will then provide an introduction to SOIL athlete, Daniel Johnson. Johnson is a native of Normal, Illinois, who won a silver medal in 400-meter snowshoeing (1:40.56) at the Special Olympics World Winter Games held in Turin, Italy, in March 2025.

Johnson will speak about his experience to the group. He and Mayer will be available for one-on-one interviews following the formal part of their presentation.

SOIL has provided additional video/audio/information (which includes an interview with his coach, Jim Bluemond) on Daniel that you may choose to utilize within your story.

Access it here: [www.ihsa.org/Journalism-State-Series](http://www.ihsa.org/Journalism-State-Series)



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Special Olympics Illinois Athlete from Normal Brings Home a Silver Medal at 2025 World Winter Games**

**March 20, 2025 –Normal, Ill. –Special Olympics**

Illinois athlete, Daniel Johnson of Normal, IL, made his mark on the world stage, bringing home a silver medal in the snowshoeing 400m event during the Special Olympics 2025 World Winter Games in Turin, Italy.

Johnson competed as part of the Special Olympics USA delegation from March 8 to March 15 and demonstrated his incredible talent, representing Illinois with pride.

“Daniel has made Illinois proud with his dedication and hard work,” said Pete Beale-DelVecchio, President & CEO of Special Olympics Illinois. “His perseverance and success in Turin embody the spirit of Special Olympics Illinois, and we celebrate his incredible achievements.”

Johnson also placed fourth place in the men’s snowshoeing 800m event.

The Special Olympics 2025 World Winter Games brought together over 1,500 athletes from 103 countries, celebrating inclusion and excellence in sports. Special Olympics Illinois extends its gratitude to the coaches, supporters, and families who played a crucial role in these athletes’ journeys.

### **About Special Olympics Illinois**

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit sports organization offering year-round training and competition in 18 sports to a community of more than 60,000 traditional athletes, Young Athletes, Unified partners, coaches, volunteers, and more. It strives to be a global leader in shaping a culture where people with and without intellectual disabilities are fully integrated into the community by providing year-round opportunities in competitive sports, health education, leadership and personal development.



## SUBMITTING YOUR WORK

Please follow the instructions below carefully, as this will be very important in our ability to receive, process, and distribute your work for judging.

1. Students competing in TV News will submit their work via an email linking to their video.
2. The subject of the email should be your four-digit code, school name and category name followed by your event category name. Example below:  
**0124 - Marist High School - TV News**
3. It is recommended that teams upload their videos in the lobby of Building 7 ICN, as the wifi there has been configured to allow for higher speeds.
4. Upload your video to a site or software that will allow you to easily share it via a link with us. For example: YouTube, Vimeo, etc. When uploading your video, please do not put your actual high school name in the title. Your video title should your four-digit school code. Your code can be found at [www.ihsa.org/Journalism/State-Series](http://www.ihsa.org/Journalism/State-Series)
5. Make sure the link does not have any permissions that will prevent us from viewing. If using YouTube, make the video UNLISTED (not private). Once you are ready to submit, send the link of your video to **state@ihsa.org**.
6. If you do not receive a reply from [state@ihsa.org](mailto:state@ihsa.org) saying “received” within 20 minutes of submission, please seek out Matt Troha outside the judges room in ACEC down the hall from the auditorium entrance.