

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Entries Sought for 2026 Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting on Intercollegiate Athletics

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Student journalists across the country are invited to submit their best investigative work for the 2026 Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting on Intercollegiate Athletics, presented by The Ohio State University's Sports and Society Initiative (SSI) in partnership with The Drake Group Education Fund.

The annual prize celebrates undergraduate and graduate student journalists who ask tough questions, dig deep, and hold powerful institutions accountable in college sports. Eligible submissions may include print, video, or multimedia projects that explore issues such as student-athlete welfare, the economics of college athletics, academic integrity, ethical conduct, gender and racial equity, whistleblower experiences, or other stories that deserve greater public attention.

To be eligible, students must have been enrolled as undergraduates or graduate students at the time their work was published. Submissions must have been published, aired, or posted between April 1, 2025, and February 1, 2026. Students can apply online at https://go.osu.edu/drake_entry_2026. The application deadline is Feb. 15 at 11:59 p.m.

Awards

- First Place: A \$1,000 honorarium and all expenses paid for the winner — or a representative from a reporting team — to attend The Allen Sack National Symposium: Advancing Integrity in College Sport, held April 23, 2026, at Howard University's Blackburn Center Ballroom in Washington, D.C. The award will be presented during the symposium.
- Second Place: \$250 honorarium
- Third Place: \$100 honorarium

Applicants must also submit a signed statement confirming their understanding of the prize criteria and submission deadline and authorizing review of all submitted materials.

For student journalists who believe strong reporting can make college sports better, this prize is an opportunity to be recognized, supported, and heard.

The Drake Group Education Fund and Ohio State Sports and Society Initiative present the
**2026 STUDENT JOURNALISM PRIZE FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING ON
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS**

DESCRIPTION: The Drake Group Education Fund annually recognizes the print, video, or multimedia work of a graduate or undergraduate college student journalist or team of student journalists for investigative reporting on intercollegiate athletics. The work must address an issue related to the welfare of college athletes, economics of college sports, academic integrity, ethical conduct, gender and racial equity, treatment of a whistleblower, or other significant issues. The Ohio State Sports and Society Initiative is partnering with The Drake Group in the facilitation of this award.

ELIGIBILITY

The student journalist or team of student journalists must have been enrolled as graduate or undergraduate students at the time the work was published. The work must have been published from April 1, 2025-Feb. 1, 2026.

APPLICATION: Please fill out this form. Incomplete forms will not be considered:

https://go.osu.edu/drake_entry_2026

DEADLINE: 11:59 p.m., Feb. 15, 2026

JUDGING: Clear communication of the issue, quality of writing and/or video production **CRITERIA:**

PRIZES

- **First Place:** \$1,000 honorarium and all expenses for the journalist or a representative of any group of reporters to attend The Allen Sack National Symposium: Advancing Integrity in College Sport to be held on April 23, 2025. The Symposium is held at Howard University's Blackburn Center Ballroom in Washington, D.C., during which the first-place prize will be presented.
- **Second Place:** \$250 honorarium
- **Third Place:** \$100 honorarium