

# Better BNC 2026

## Contestant Instructions

**BetterBNC– Version 5.7 – (2026)**

**Need Help? Contact WNPA Contest Administrator**

**Laura Niemi**

**[laura@mna.org](mailto:laura@mna.org) or call 612-278-0226**

## CONTESTANT

Below are directions for preparing and submitting entries. If you have any questions, please contact the contest coordinator at [laura@mna.org](mailto:laura@mna.org) or 612-278-0226.

### A. Login.

1. Go to [www.betterbnc.com](http://www.betterbnc.com).
2. Click “Contestant Login” from the navigation options at the top of the page
3. Select the appropriate contestant type: (use tab at top of selection screen, either Contestant Manager or Authorized Entrant):
  - a. If you are the single point of contact for your organization, select Contestant Manager, then skip to “Contestant Manager Login” below.
  - b. If you have received an email authorizing you to submit entries on behalf of your media organization, select “Authorized Entrant” on the log in page, then skip to “Authorized Entrant Login” below
4. **Contestant Manager Login:**
  - a. Select the contest: **2026 WNPA (WA) BNC**
  - b. Select your Media Organization (Newspaper title)
  - c. Enter your password\*\*
  - d. Click “Login”

If the designated Contestant Manager left your organization, please contact Laura Niemi at [laura@mna.org](mailto:laura@mna.org) to have the contact info in your account updated.

### 5. Authorized Entrant Login:

- a. Select the contest: **2026 WNPA (WA) BNC**
  - b. Select your Media Organization (Newspaper title)
  - c. Enter your email address
  - d. Enter your password\*\*
  - e. Click “Login”
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\*\*Note: If it is your first time logging into your account, use the temporary password: P@ssword1. After you log in using that temporary password, the system will require you to update your password. Going forward, you will log in with the password you (re)set.

## **B. Submit Entries**

- 1.** Click “Submit Entry” from the Manage Entries page
- 2.** Select a Division (Advertising, News, etc.)
- 3.** Select a Category
- 4.** Enter the entry headline or title
- 5.** Upload Attachment
  - a. To upload the PDF file attachment, click “Choose File”, then navigate to the desire file.

Upload entries only as PDF files of the printed page (there is an exception for uploading a URL for digital/web division entries and third-party site URLs). Do not upload web links, they are disqualifying. Create a single PDF which includes all the page(s) for each entry. For General Excellence, submit a single PDF for each edition within one entry. Do not submit as 3 separate entries!

The maximum file size is 20MB. For all PDF files larger than 20MB, upload the PDF files to a third-party site such as Issuu.com, Google Drive, etc. Enter the third-party site URL into the appropriate field when submitting your entry in the Better Newspaper Contest site. Please “allow download” of the content from the third-party sites.

To add live web/video content, copy and paste the content URL into the provided Website URL field. Make sure the content will be accessible online throughout the duration of the contest and awards process.

**IMPORTANT:** Please be sure that items are not behind a paywall or password-protected area. If they are, you must provide username/password info in the Comments section of your entry. Judges will not judge your entry if the entries are inaccessible. Alternatively, you may upload your web/video content to a free streaming content website (e.g. YouTube) to avoid the paywall.

- a. Add explanatory Comments, identify the credits (writer name), select the reCAPTCHA box (“I am not a robot”)
- b. Click “Submit Entry”

**NOTE:** If this is your first time uploading content, you will be asked to Validate Your Account after two entries.

- a. Find the validation email in the email address associated with your contestant account (this may require contacting someone else on your team if the email is sent to another user). If you get hung up here, contact the contest coordinator at [laura@mna.org](mailto:laura@mna.org) for help. Click on the validation link and log back into the account.

**NEW!**

### **C. Calculate Entry Fees**

1. Navigate to the Manage Entries page
2. Click “Calculate Entry Fees” to see what your fees will be. Please pay off this receipt by credit card or postmarked by June 1, 2026.
3. Preferred Payment Method: Pay upon completion of submitting your entries via PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account; a guest option is available.
4. **Electronic payment will be an option or check paid AND postmarked by last day of entry. No Invoice will be sent; it is your responsibility to make sure the WNPA office receives BNC entry payment according to instruction above.**

**Make Check Payable to: WNPA**

**MAIL TO: WNPA, PO Box 23472, Federal Way, WA 98093**