

Local youth compete for a chance to play at national tournament.

This year marks the 45th year for the annual Trusted Choice Big I National Championship (TCBINC). The Nebraska Qualifying Tournament for this championship is sponsored by Independent Insurance Agents of Nebraska, and is one of the premier junior tournaments in the state.

Nebraska has eliminated the local qualifying tournaments held across the state in the past. Eldorado Hills in Norfolk is the location for the state tournament, held on July 11-12. Players will compete in a 36-hole medal play tournament. To be eligible, players must not reach their 19th birthday on or before Aug. 8 and must not have started college.

The top two boys and top girl will advance to the National TCBINC, which will be played at the Country Club of North Carolina in Pinehurst, N.C. Aug. 5-8.

Players interested in qualifying will need to fill out the information on this year's brochure form and mail in to Sean Chastain. These brochures can be printed off from the website www.ilan.org and have also been sent to high school athletic directors and golf courses across the state. Chastain will need to receive the completed application form by June 17. He will select and invite the players by email no later than June 24. Invitations from him will give instructions on registering for the tournament. State tournament entry fee is \$85.

The Trusted Choice Big "I" National Championship began in 1969 and has grown to become the nation's largest junior stroke-play tournament and one of the most highly anticipated junior golfing events in the country.

Each summer more than 3000 junior boys and girls nationally vie to earn a place in the finals. Through the years, several of today's current PGA stars played in the Big "I" as youngsters, including Craig Stadler, Fuzzy Zoeller, Casey Martin, David Duval, Hale Irwin and Bill Andrade, who is a two-time IAJC winner, and many others. Additionally, Tiger Woods is a two-time Big "I" champion.

Independent Insurance Agents of Nebraska members are small business owners who represent more than one insurance company and sell all types of insurance. As a result, Independent Insurance Agents of Nebraska members offer their clients a wide choice of auto, home, business, life and health insurance products.