



March 13, 2008

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**Bank of America Open Announces New Amateur Invitational**

*Creates a unique opportunity for an area golfer to play in a  
Nationwide Tour sanctioned event*

**CHICAGO, IL** — To continue providing opportunities for Illinois amateur golfers, the Bank of America Open will host its first ever Amateur Invitational on Monday, April 21 at Oak Park Country Club in River Grove, Ill. Approximately 60 amateur golfers will compete for an automatic exemption into the Nationwide Tour's Bank of America Open, May 29 – June 1 and a \$5,000 donation to the winner's charity of choice.

"As the only large professional golf tournament in the Chicagoland area this year, we feel a responsibility to further our commitment to local golfers. By organizing the Bank of America Open Amateur Invitational, we are using our best resources to offer opportunities to amateur Illinois golfers they might not otherwise have, including the chance to compete in a professional event," said Bank of America Open Tournament Director Scott Cassin.

Organized in conjunction with the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA), the Bank of America Open Amateur Invitational will invite the top golfers in Illinois according to current CDGA rankings. The entry fee for each golfer is \$100 with all proceeds benefiting the CDGA's Sunshine Through Golf Foundation.

"The Sunshine Through Golf Foundation is honored to be a beneficiary of both the Bank of America Open and the Amateur Invitational. Each of these events will help to strengthen our overall mission that is centered around bringing joy to people with special needs through golf," said Brittany Ottolini, Sunshine Through Golf Foundation Director of Operations.

The format for the Amateur Invitational will consist of one 18-hole round with the champion earning an automatic Bank of America Open exemption and a \$5,000 donation to a charity of choice. The Bank of America Open also will make a \$5,000 donation to the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation for the continuation of its local programs.

"The addition of the Amateur Invitational is representative of how the Bank of America Open can assist us in our larger goals," said Bank of America Illinois Market President David Rudis. "Being able to offer the Illinois community further support of local athletics and assistance in providing professional opportunities for amateurs is a unique opportunity made possible by our sponsorship of this tournament. We are proud to present such an opportunity to amateur golfers across the state."

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In addition to the Amateur Invitational, an open qualifier offering 14 positions in the Bank of America Open will continue to be organized for Illinois golfers. The open qualifier will again be administered by the Illinois PGA and is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 27, two days in advance of tournament competition.

The Bank of America Open will take place at The Glen Club in Glenview, Ill. May 29 – June 1, welcoming a full field of 156 golfers who will compete for one of the largest purses available on the Nationwide Tour. With the top 25 Nationwide Tour money earners graduating to the PGA TOUR each year, the Bank of America Open is widely targeted by players looking to advance their Nationwide Tour ranking.

### **Bank of America Open**

PGA TOUR golf will make its annual Chicago appearance as the Nationwide Tour's Bank of America Open arrives in suburban Glenview, Ill. May 29 – June 1. The tournament, whose original roots stem back 70 years to the Chicago Open, will welcome a full field of 156 professional golfers ranging from the up-and-comers to seasoned PGA TOUR veterans. The hands-down best sports bargain in Chicago, the Bank of America Open offers weeklong tournament passes for only \$10, free parking and the best opportunity to obtain front-row seats to professional golf. Held at The Glen Club, the Bank of America Open offers a \$750,000 prize purse — one of the largest on the Nationwide Tour which sends its top 25 money leaders to the PGA TOUR each year. For more information, visit [pgatour.com](http://pgatour.com).

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