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Khoo Cares Too Much

As one of the most prominent golfing administrators in Singapore, Janice Khoo leaves no doubt as to her beliefs relating to the concept of amateur status. However, with a single blow last year her commitment to the rules underwent the ultimate test.

Khoo is the honorary secretary of the Singapore Ladies Golf Association, an organisation that takes a dim view of players breaching their amateur status, especially relating to hole-in-one prizes. As she points out: "We are very strict in enforcing the rules on loss of amateur status when a member accepts a car as a prize."

However, her resolve was fully tested last August when she aced the 126-metre fourth hole of the Dendro Course during the Orchid Country Club Ladies Open in Singapore with a five-iron. While the hole-

in-one was Khoo's second, the other one had come in 2000, this one was a little bit different ... it came with a luxury Mercedes C180 as a reward.

However, in the spirit of the game, the prospect of keeping the car for herself did not once cross the national representative's mind. "As an amateur, I do not think it is right to accept such a huge prize, because golf is not my profession. I take satisfaction in personal achievements and, personally, I feel a good round of golf should be a reward in itself."

In line with the recommendations of Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (R&A) guidelines, Khoo's decision also helped the less fortunate. She immediately donated the proceeds to a variety of charities, including an old age home, Christian and Buddhist organisations that support

the aged, sick and underprivileged children and her *alma mater*.

"The first thought that came to my mind was that the needy would benefit more from my achievement. I have always wanted to make such a contribution and this was a golden opportunity for me to do so. Thus, I was happy that I could make the donation and at the same time be happy to maintain the status of my golfing career," added the six-handicapper (*pictured*).

"Another factor that made me happy to donate the prize to charity was the significance of the date of the event, as it was the third anniversary of my father's death. He encouraged such charity and this had a bearing on my decision. I wanted to commemorate the anniversary of his death with this gift. I felt like it was a reminder from him to act for a good cause.

"It gave me tremendous satisfaction that the gain from my hole-in-one could be carried a much longer way by helping the needy and less fortunate." ♪

