

www.LBIYRA.org

LONG BEACH ISLAND YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION 2025

42 YEARS OF SUPPORTING SAILING ON LBI

MEMBER CLUBS

Barnegat Light Yacht Club*
Brant Beach Yacht Club*
Haven Beach Club
Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club*
Spray Beach Yacht Club*
Surf City Yacht Club *

In Memory of Faye Bennet

The idea of Long Beach Island Yacht Racing Association began over a fish chowder lunch with one representative from each one of the Island Clubs. The attendees took the idea of a combined racing association back to their clubs where it was well received.

Realizing the importance of having such a staunch sailing member in the group, the logical person to fill this important slot was Faye Bennet. She readily agreed to come on board and the fledgling group began.

The one steady driving force to success was Faye, struggling with disagreements along the way.

Early in the organization's years, Faye pressed for the Opti to be the combining factor to meld the Clubs for interclub sailing.

Convincing the clubs of this fact proved harder than imagined, but when Little Egg agreed to shelve its sneakbox, Faye's dream became a reality. No one deserves the credit for the success of this little boat on Long Beach Island more than Faye. Without a common boat the ideals of LBIYRA would have never been achieved.

Faye also recognized that the older junior sailors needed a boat to carry them on before the high-performance fleets. She pushed for the adoption of the 420's. Again, a success!

Faye's foresight led to the combined sailing of all classes of boats on the Island. Regattas happen once weekly for the juniors and a large combined sail of all Senior sailors rounds out the summers.

Faye's love for sailing and sailors will always be felt at the clubs of Long Beach Island.

Vic Sencindiver
1st Commodore LBIYRA 1983

LONG BEACH ISLAND YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS FOR 2025

Commodore Tom Boulden

taboulden@aolcom (SBYC)

Vice Commodore Maria Bucca

mariabucca1@gmail.com (HBC)

Rear Commodore Mac deTuro

macbethnyc@mac.com (BLYC)

Secretary Erin DeCroix

erincarberry@gmail.com (BBYC)

Treasurer OPEN

PAST COMMODORES OF LBIYRA

1983 Vic Sencindiver	Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club
1984 Jack Elfman	Surf City Yacht Club
1985 Norm Daly	Brant Beach Yacht Club
1986 Bill Clarke	Barnegat Light Yacht Club
1987 Faye Bennet	Spray Beach Yacht Club
1988 Jack Lampman	Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club
1989 Rich Warren	Surf City Yacht Club
1990 Dave Coward	Brant Beach Yacht Club
1991 Paul Wood	Barnegat Light Yacht Club
1992 Charlie Howe	Surf City Yacht Club
1993 Bill Haig	Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club
1994 Jake Bennet	Spray Beach Yacht Club
1995 Carl Reitinger	Brant Beach Yacht Club
1996 Ray Tomek	Barnegat Light Yacht Club
1997 Sue Warren	Surf City Yacht Club
1998 Gretchen Vare	Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club
1999 Paul Coward	Brant Beach Yacht Club
2000 Rob Roy	Spray Beach Yacht Club
2001 Kathy Wright	Barnegat Light Yacht Club
2002 Cindy Elfman	Surf City Yacht Club
2003 Henry Vare	Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club
2004 Beth Reitinger	Brant Beach Yacht Club
2005 Franz Schneider Jr.	Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club
2006 Merle Jenik	Spray Beach Yacht Club
2007 Glenn Reitinger	Brant Beach Yacht Club
2008 Darryl Waskow	Surf City Yacht Club
2009 Pete Campana	Haven Beach Club
2010 Larry Peacock	Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club
2011 Dory Gosorek	Barnegat Light Yacht Club
2012 Joanne McCarthy	Brant Beach Yacht Club
2013 Dick Saunders	Spray Beach Yacht Club
2014 Robert Kleiner	Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club
2015 Marianne Dewling	Barnegat Light Yacht Club
2016 Robert Boetticher	Surf City Yacht Club
2017 Gayle Miner	Spray Beach Yacht Club
2018 Spring LaFevre	Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club
2019 Spring LaFevre	Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club
2020 Michelle Green	Surf City Yacht Club
2021 Stacey Kliesch	Brant Beach Yacht Club
2022 John Black	Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club
2023 Gayle Miner	Spray Beach Yacht Club
2024 Laura Malfitano	Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club

LONG BEACH ISLAND YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION

MEMBER CLUBS

Barnegat Light Yacht Club
76th Street at the Bay
Harvey Cedars, NJ
PO Box 3082
Harvey Cedars, NJ 08008
1-609-494-9868
www.barnegatlightyachtclub.com

Brant Beach Yacht Club 59th Bayview Avenue Brant Beach, NJ PO Box 208 Ship Bottom, NJ 08008 1-609-494-4485 1-609-494-5514 (office) www.bbyc.net office@bbyc.net

Haven Beach Club
1 Kentucky Ave.,
Haven Beach, NJ
08008
1-609-492-9802
1-609-492-6351 (office)
www.havenbeachclub.com

Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club
401 Berkeley Ave
Beach Haven, NJ
PO Box 1284
Beach Haven, NJ 08008
1-609-492-2529 (office)
1-609-492-1942 (fax)
www.lehyc.org
administrator@lehyc.org

Spray Beach Yacht Club
2300 Long Beach Boulevard
Spray Beach, NJ
PO Box 1125
Beach Haven, NJ 08008
1-609-492-6845 (office)
www.spraybeachyachtclub.com
kspanover.sbyc@gmail.com

Surf City Yacht Club
399 N. 9th Steet
PO Box 236
Surf City, NJ 08008
609-494-1532 (Manager)
scyc-nj.org
manager@scyc-nj.org

LBIYRA Member Club Responsibilities

Every club has the responsibility of running an Interclub Regatta on one Wednesday during the season. This can be done with assistance from other member clubs.

Once every 6 years each club hosts the LBIYRA Championship Award Ceremony and End of Season Event. It rotates among the clubs from North to South (then back to North). Extenuating circumstances are understood and this requirement can be modified.

There are annual dues. We charge ONLY what is needed to fund our expenses. Invoice is sent in June.

Each club should do it's best to provide a minimum of 3 members to act as representatives to LBIYRA This is to ensure that there is always at least 1 representative at every meeting

LBIYRA Representative Job Description

Attend meetings. There are six a year, 3 off season, 3 during the summer, usually lasting 1 to 1.5 hrs. Meetings are held on Zoom, with in-person meetings available sporadically.

Representatives get information from their individual clubs needed by LBIYRA to run the season of island-wide regattas called the Interclubs Series.

Representatives disseminate the information from LBIYRA to their individual clubs, ensuring that the clubs have the information they need.

Each representative is encouraged to take a job on one of the smaller committees. They vary in the level of commitment and work load.

Representatives vote on decisions when needed. Each club gets a single vote.

One representative at each club will be designated as the main contact and ensure each club is meeting LBIYRA expectations.

Contact List

	<u>Contact</u>		<u>e-mail</u>
BBYC			
Lead Representative	Erin DeCroix		erincarberry@gmail.com
Representative	John Barbano		njjrb@aol.com
Representative	Christine Banks		christine297@yahoo.com
Representative	Susan Underwood	1	susieawn@hotmail.com
BLYC			
Lead Representative	Marianne Dewling		mdewling27@comcast.net
Representative	Joe McGinnis		mcginnis67@yahoo.com
Representative	Maureen Welsh		
Representative	Blair Schiff		blairschiff@gmail.com
HBC			
Lead Representative	Melissa Feldstein		mfeldstein@crestron.com
Representative	Kristen Ducker		kk783@yahoo.com
Representative	Klistell Duckel		kk763@yanoo.com
LEHYC			
Lead Representative	Laura Malfitano		orthochk@gmail.com
Representative	Bob Kleiner		rckdr@verizon.net
Representative	Spring LaFevre		springlafevre@gmail.com
Representative	John Black		johnblackpa@gmail.com
SBYC			
Lead Representative	Gayle Miner		gminer333@gmail.com
Representative	Nancy Chambers		chambersnp@aol.com
Representative	Tom Bouden		taboulden@aol.com
Representative	Lisa Coster	declanhouse@gmail.com	
SOVO			
SCYC	Chave Marray		
Lead Representative	Steve Warren		warren.stephen11@gmail.com
Representative	Sandy Mazzagatti		smazzagatti@octorara.org
Representative	Rich Warren		warrens25@comcast.net
US Sailing Representative	Rich Warren		warrens25@comcast.net

2025 Board Meeting Schedule

February 3rd @ 7:00 PM via Zoom April 7th @ 7:00 PM via Zoom June 2nd @ 7:00 PM via Zoom July 7thth @ 7:00 PM at SCYC August 4th @ 7:00 PM via Zoom October 6th @ 7:00 PM via Zoom

LBIYRA 2024 Interclub Racing Schedule

HBC - July 2nd
SBYC - July 9th
SCYC- July 16th
LEHYC - July 23rd
BBYC - July 30th
BLYC - August 6th
Award Ceremony - August 13th (@SBYC)

LONG BEACH ISLAND YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION Rules & Regulations

Approved 7/7/2025

1. Jurisdiction

The LBIYRA Junior Interclub Series shall be sailed under the jurisdiction of the LBIYRA. The LBIYRA will also coordinate with member clubs and active fleets to recognize a LBIYRA Class Championship event for recognized Open and Senior classes. LBIYRA "Senior Race Week" has been discontinued.

The LBIYRA supports US Sailing and US Sailing certification programs for instructors involved in our events on and around the water. Membership in US Sailing is encouraged but not required.

2. Rules

The races shall be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the U.S. Sailing Association, any applicable Class rules, and these LBIYRA Rules & Regulations (R&R). In the case of any conflict with other LBIYRA guidance documents, these R&R shall prevail.

3. Venue

A. Weekly Interclubs

The LBIYRA Junior Interclub Series shall be sailed on Wednesdays, on a rotating basis, at each of the member clubs: Barnegat Light YC, Brant Beach YC, Haven Beach Club, Little Egg Harbor YC, Spray Beach YC and Surf City YC. The final schedule shall be approved by the LBIYRA.

B. LBIYRA Class Championships

The LBIYRA will designate an event for each recognized active class as the "LBIYRA Championship". For Junior classes, this event will be the season-long Junior Interclub Series. For Senior/Open classes, the event can be a race day dedicated to the LBIYRA Class Championship or can be an existing regatta. If an existing regatta is designated, the LBIYRA Class Championship goes to the highest placing entry who is a member of a LBIYRA club. The final schedule will be approved by the LBIYRA and an attempt will be made to rotate the venues among all interested clubs.

4. Classes

The following classes are recognized by the LBIYRA for the 2025 season:

Junior Classes

Laser ILCA4 - Skipper may not be 19 or older during the calendar year.

Laser ILCA6 - Skipper may not be 19 or older during the calendar year.

Sunfish - Skipper may not be 19 or older during the calendar year. Crews are optional and may not be 19 during the calendar year.

C420- Skipper and crew may not be 19 or older during the calendar year.

Optimist Dinghy: In accordance with the USODA rules, the competitors shall be divided into Red, Blue and White Fleets according to their ages on the day of the first Interclub regatta.

"White Fleet"- 10 years old or younger.

"Blue Fleet"- 11 or 12 years old.

"Red Fleet"- 13 years old or older and shall not have reached their 16th birthday in the current calendar year

Full Rig Lasers: May sail and will have an opportunity to win flags during Interclub races when three (3) or more boats compete but they will not be scored for the team championship. Skipper may not be 19 or older during the calendar year.

Feva: Skipper and crew may not be 19 or older during the calendar year.

Open/Senior Classes

Sunfish – Senior (Does not meet Junior eligibility above)
ILCA 7 – Senior
B Cat – Open
Mariner – Open
Lightning – Open
Melges 15 - Open

5. Entries

A. Junior Interclub Series

All participants must be a member of a LBIYRA member club or be enrolled in the junior sailing program of a member club and meet the age requirements set forth above.

For the purposes of season scoring, each skipper must declare at registration of the first Interclub sailed in any class of boat, what club they represent. Should a skipper compete in more than one class over the course of the season, the skipper may only represent one yacht club in each class. This rule pertains to skippers who may be affiliated with more than one club. For double-handed boats, the skipper's affiliation shall determine what yacht club is represented. For double-handed boats, crew substitutions are permitted with the approval of the designated LBIYRA representative. Also, for double-handed boats, "co-skippers" are permitted provided both are from the same club and a "declared team" at the beginning of the series (i.e., a substitute crew may not co-skipper).

Each club may enter an unlimited number of contestants in each class provided they meet the eligibility requirements above.

B. LBIYRA Class Championship Events

Open: Any age may compete.

Senior: Skipper must be at least 19 during the calendar year. Junior: Meet the age requirements outlined in Paragraph 4.

6. Entrance Fee

Entrance Fee- The Entrance Fee for each Interclub for 2025 shall be \$10.00 per sailor and is not refundable. This is intended to cover the cost of breakfast and incidental costs, as well as support the end of season event/awards ceremony,incurred by LBIYRA and the host club. For LBIYRA Class Championship events the Entry Fee, if any, shall be established by the host club.

Late Fee- A Late Fee of \$5.00 will be assessed for any registration after 9:00 PM the night before an interclub. This is meant to encourage early registration.

7. Registration for Junior Interclubs

For the 2025 season, LBIYRA will be utilizing Clubspot, a web-based platform, for registration, scoring and general communications regarding the Junior Interclubs. All sailors and coaches/instructors must register online prior to each event.

8. Race Management for Junior Interclubs

A. General

It is the intention of the LBIYRA that the host clubs treat each Junior Interclub event as a "major regatta" and provide the appropriate Race Committee, patrol boats and shore support as required. It is expected that the member clubs will assist each other in fulfilling these requirements. The Race Committee shall not consist of any sailing instructors except in "emergency" situations.

B. Scoring Administration

It is the intention of the LBIYRA to keep the parents and participants informed via the Clubspot system at each event and for the season series. LBIYRA will provide scorers familiar with the system. Parents, coaches and participants can view the list of all participants and very timely results of each race by accessing that interclub via the links to the Clubspot system on the LBIYRA website. This will provide officials and participants more opportunity to recognize any scoring or registration errors, and time to correct them prior to the end of the day.

For regular weekly interclubs, any official scoring inquiry must be lodged within forty-eight hours of the event. This changes RRS 90.3(e). Official scoring inquiries must be made through the competitor's LBIYRA Club Representative. Awards for these Interclubs can be adjusted accordingly.

At the final Interclub of the year, scoring inquiries must be made as soon as practicable. Scores will not be changed after trophies are awarded. Send an email to mariannedewling27@gmail.com for any sailing inquiry.

C. Schedule

The Skippers' Meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. each day. The start of the first race should be scheduled for as close to 10:00 A.M. as possible. There shall be a maximum of five races per day; however, one race will constitute a series. No race shall be started after 3:00 P.M. The Race Committee will do its best to hold at least one race on the day scheduled.

D. Starts

Races shall be started in accordance with RRS 26 ("5-4-1-Go") or Appendix Q (Sound Signal Starting System- 3 Minute "Dinghy Start"). The details of the starting sequence shall be explained at the Skippers' Meeting. LBIYRA recommends the starting sequence be described at each skippers' meeting, including the planned use of Starting Penalties (RRS 30).

E. Courses

A minimum of two courses shall be required, unless otherwise pre-approved by the LBIYRA Executive Committee as defined in the By-Laws. Laser ILCA4s, Laser ILCA6s, Sunfish, Feva and C420s may race together on one course. Optimist Dinghies must sail on a separate course. Additional courses may be utilized as room and resources dictate.

The recommended course for the Optimist Dinghies is Triangular –four (4) legs. It is recommended that the course not be "modified" by placing the start/finish line in the middle of the windward leg.

Courses for the Laser ILCA4s, Laser ILCA6s, Sunfish, Feva and C420s may be Triangle-Windward-

Leeward, Windward/Leeward, or Triangular and may be "modified" with the start/finish line in the middle of the windward leg.

The length of the courses will depend on the conditions and the feasibility of completing five races for the day. However, getting off good, fair races is more important than the number of races.

F. Penalties

RRS rules 44.1 and 44.2 shall be in effect for all races. This provides for a One-Turn Penalty for hitting a mark and a Two-Turn Penalty for other rule infractions.

G. Sail Numbers

All participants are encouraged to register their boats with their respective class associations and display proper sail numbers. As a minimum, however, each sail shall display a number of contrasting colors on each side. Each number shall be at least six inches high and one inch wide. In the case of duplicate numbers; (1) the boat for which the sail number matches or (2) the first to register may use the number; duplications must affix the letter X next to the number. Boats not adhering to these requirements may be scored DNC.

H. Coaching

Coaching by sailing instructors will be permitted and encouraged prior to the preparatory signal for each race. Absolutely no coaching is permitted during a race by either sailing instructors or parents, with the following exception. After receiving permission from the Race Committee, competitors who are lagging significantly behind may be coached by sailing instructors only. Infractions of this rule will result in disqualification of the illegally coached participant.

I. Designated Finishes

The Race Committee shall have the right to assign finishing positions, as it deems necessary, in order to facilitate the start of the next race.

9. Code of Conduct

LBIYRA follows US Sailing's Code of Conduct and each LBIYRA member club is responsible for making sure their members adhere to this Code of Conduct. US Sailing's code of conduct is attached as an appendix for reference.

10. Safety

A. Life Jackets

Life jackets (USCG Approved) shall be worn at all times by all participants. A boat whose skipper and/or crew do not conform to this requirement will be disqualified. The LBIYRA endorses the US Sailing policy that instructors shall wear life jackets properly at all times while on the water. Instructors/Coaches must wear PFDs. Violation of such will be reported to their respective club and if there is a repeat offense then at the subsequent Interclub the sailors from that club will not be scored.

B. Postponements/Abandonments

Races postponed or abandoned due to extreme or threatening weather conditions are at the sole discretion of the Race Committee. They should, however, be very conservative in making this decision and carefully consider the sailors' abilities, as well as the availability of qualified rescue boats. Junior Interclub Series races shall not be rescheduled. However, LBIYRA and the host club may decide to reschedule an interclub that is cancelled, postponed or abandoned on the same day as the Award Ceremony.

11. Protests

The intention to protest must be signified by a loud hail of the word "Protest" to the offending boat. Displaying a protest flag is not required but the Race Committee must be notified at the finish line of the intent to file a protest. Protests should be written and filed with the LBIYRA Scorers within 1/2 hour of the Race Committee docking. The LBIYRA Representative for the event shall coordinate the formation of the Protest Committee.

12. Scoring

A. General

Low Point Scoring System, RRS Rule A4, will be utilized for all Junior Interclub Series events. Optimist fleet scoring will be based on overall scores in accordance with the prescriptions of the USODA. with the following exception: An Optimist Sailor's fleet color (White (age 10 and under), Blue (ages 11 or 12) or Red (ages 13,14,15) is determined by the sailor's age **as of the date of the first interclub**. **The sailor will keep that same color for the entire interclub season.** USODA determines the fleet color on the day of each regatta. (Appendix A9 does not apply.)

B. Junior Interclub Series - Season Scoring

The LBIYRA will recognize both individual and club (team) accomplishments for the season based on the following prescriptions:

1. Individual Scoring

For the purpose of determining the final season standings in each class, the following system will be used:

Each individual will count their best overall placements in accordance with the following table:

Interclubs Held	Required to Qualify	Number to Score
6	4	4
5	3	3
4	3	3
3	3	3
2	2	2
1	1	1

A sailor must compete in the required number of events to qualify for season scoring and DNC scores shall not be counted. The sailor's best placements per the above are added to determine the individual's score for the season. Any ties will be broken in favor of the individual with the most first place placements, then most seconds, etc. The full description and method of breaking ties shall follow RRS A8 Series Ties.

2. Club Scoring -Class Championship

For the purpose of determining the Club Champion in each class, the following system will be used:

The final season position for the top three (3) finishers (except for top two (2) finishers for Optimist

Red and C420) from each club will be added to determine the club's score for that class. Any ties will be broken in favor of the club with highest individual finisher.

Only competitors scored pursuant to Article 12(B)1 above will be scored for the Class Championship. Accordingly, no DNC scores will be included. Any team without at least three qualifiers per Article 12(B)1 (except Optimist Red and C420, which shall require at least two qualifiers) shall not be eligible for the Class Championship. If no club qualifies in a fleet, then no Class Championship will be awarded.

3. Club Scoring -LBIYRA Interclub Championship - Jack Elfman Trophy

For the purposes of determining the overall Interclub Champion for the season, the following system will be used:

Points for the Jack Elfman trophy are awarded to the top three (3) qualifying competitors in all classes with three (3) points awarded for first, two (2) points awarded for second, and one (1) point awarded for third. The club with the highest total wins. Ties are broken on the basis of most class championships, then, if still tied, which club beat the other in the largest class.

Only competitors scored pursuant to Article 12(B)1 above will be scored for the Class Championship. Accordingly, no DNC scores will be included.

13. Trophies

A. Junior Interclub Series - Weekly

Triangular trophy flags will be awarded to e individual finishers in each class. Trophies are provided by the LBIYRA.

1st- Blue (All Classes)

2nd - Red (All Classes)

3rd - White (All Classes)

4th - Green (Opti White and Blue Only)

5th - Yellow (Opti White and Blue Only)

B. Junior Interclub Series - Season

- 1. Trophies (plaques) will be awarded to the top five individual finishers in two classes, Optimist White and Blue; and to the top three individual finishers in all other classes(skippers and crew).
- 2. LBIYRA class championship perpetual trophies will be awarded to the winner of each class.
- 3. One large rectangular blue flag and the LBIYRA perpetual trophy (dagger boards, paddles, etc.) will be awarded to the club winning each fleet.
- 4. One large rectangular blue flag and the LBIYRA Jack Elfman Trophy will be awarded to the club winning the overall LBIYRA Interclub Championship.

C. LBIYRA Class Championships

- 1. LBIYRA perpetual trophies will be awarded to the winner of each class in the Junior Interclub Series (see 13B(2) above).
- 2. LBIYRA perpetual trophies will be awarded to the winner of each Senior and Open class at their

designated championship event.

- 3. A perpetual trophy for Best Lady Skipper will be awarded for the best performance by a woman skipper in a Senior or Open class championship. It is awarded to the woman skipper with the highest placement and in the event of a tie, will go to the woman sailing in largest fleet.
- 4. All LBIYRA perpetual trophies must be returned to the LBIYRA Trophy Committee by July 1st of the following year.

14. Faye Bennet Award

Faye Bennet felt the LBIYRA was a training ground for developing good sailing skills and providing the basis for a life-long love of the sport. In her memory, this award will be given to a LBIYRA junior sailor who has achieved significant accomplishments in the sport of sailing over the years. The following criteria will be evaluated as part of the selection process:

- 1. The sailor must be a member of an LBIYRA club and have during the award year either participated in enough Interclubs to qualify for end of year awards or sailed in one or more regattas hosted by LBIYRA clubs. Examples of such regattas are Orange Coffee Pot at SCYC, Junior Commodore's Regatta at SCYC, Down Bay Regatta at LEHYC, BBYC Optimist Regatta. Major events hosted by LBIYRA clubs also qualify.
- 2. While Interclub participation is not required during the award year, a sailor must have participated in a full Interclub series at some point to be eligible. Full is defined as sailing enough races to qualify for end of year awards.
- 3. The sailor's accomplishments and results in regional and national events over the years are criteria that will be strongly considered.
- 4. In recognition of Faye Bennet's commitment to the national organization, participation in US Sailing events is strongly encouraged.
- 5. The sailor should demonstrate enthusiasm for sailing as well as exemplary sportsmanship.

Nominations can be submitted to any LBIYRA representative or officer. Nominations should include a sailing resume or summary of the sailor's accomplishments and a referral letter from a sailing coach with knowledge of the sailor's accomplishments and sportsmanship.

Submissions must be completed by July 31st. Additions to a resume can be submitted after July 31st to cover any later events.

The LBIYRA Executive Committee will appoint a committee of at least three individuals to review the nominations and select a winner.

The sailor receiving the Faye Bennet Award will receive an award plaque; and his/her name will be placed on a perpetual trophy to be displayed at their home club for the year; and then to be returned to the LBIYRA Trophy Committee by July 1st of the following year.

A sailor can only win the award once, and there is no requirement that it be awarded every year.