

Stroke and Distance Clarification

The IGHSAU encourages all schools to follow Stroke and Distance as outlined in the USGA Rules of Golf when dealing with a ball hit out of bounds. **The IGHSAU will be utilizing stroke and distance (i.e. same as it always has been) in all IGHSAU Regional and State play.**

The "Alternative to Stroke and Distance" option would be a rule adaptation that all teams in a given regular season event could agree to utilize (local rule); however, please realize it's not just a matter of playing another ball from the fairway, there is a defined area where a player will be allowed to drop depending on where the ball either last crossed out of bounds or is estimated to be lost.

Part of the problem with the "alternative" method is that once a provisional ball is hit for a ball that "might" be out of bounds, you no longer have the option to utilize the "alternative" method. So the player is forced to decide on the tee whether they would utilize the "alternative" method or play a provisional. If you choose to use the "Alternative to Stroke and Distance" local rule in a regular season event, make sure all your players are familiar with the procedure that must be followed. In addition, the "alternative" method does not apply to penalty areas.

The USGA has provided the "Alternative to Stroke and Distance" local rule for use during regular, daily play and have recommended that it not be used for championship or tournament play. The IGHSAU and IHSAA believe high school competition is a cut above regular, daily play. Please realize that using the "alternative" method may create confusion with your golfers once they enter postseason play as the "alternative" method will not be allowed and misapplication of the rules could lead to disqualification.