

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CITY OF ESTHERVILLE
2024 GIRL'S JUNIOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL RULES
(Currently in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades as of Spring 2024)**

Iowa High School Rules to govern, except where covered in the following:

- I. **GENERAL GAME**
 - A. Second team listed on schedule is home team. They will occupy the first base dugout and furnish the base umpire.
 - B. All games are scheduled to be 5 innings in length. A tie at the end of 5 innings, teams will follow the international tie breaker rule. Only one inning !!!! if still is a tie after one inning the game is a tie.
 1. Continuous Time Clock. If there is time left, you keep playing. A complete game is 5 innings unless the game has been in progress 1 hour and 15 minutes - then a complete game will be three innings. If the game is in the third, fourth or fifth inning at the end of the time period, the inning will be finished, and then the game is complete. No infield practice will be allowed prior to the second game.
 - C. There is a 15-run rule after three innings, a 10-run rule after four innings.
 - D. Intentionally walking batters is not allowed.
 - E. Pitching distance is 36 feet.
 - F. Bases are set at 60 feet.
 - G. Games called due to darkness, and weather will be restarted at the exact point it was called, and the normal game will be finished.
 - H. Games may be started with 6 players. There will be no automatic outs for missing players.
 - I. Games must start as scheduled. NO time grace periods.
 - J. Teams can score five runs per inning.
- II. **EQUIPMENT**
 - A. All playing equipment is checked out to the coach at the start of the season. It is his/her responsibility to return it in good condition with no items missing.
 - B. NO metal spikes or metal cleats on shoes.
 - C. No jewelry (rings, earrings, etc.) is to be worn.
 - D. Catchers must wear a mask, including warming-up pitcher between innings.
 - E. Misuse of equipment by players shall not be tolerated (i.e., throwing of helmets or bats, etc.). Players doing this may be suspended from the game.
- III. **DUGOUT**
 - A. NO pop or food allowed in the dugout.
 - B. All players and equipment to be in an orderly fashion in the dugout. Only "on deck batter" and the "batter at the plate" should be up and out of the dugout.
- IV. **BATTING**
 - A. No bunting.
- V. **STEALING**
 - A. Base runners cannot lead off until the ball crosses the plate.
 - B. Batters cannot advance to first base on a dropped third strike.
 - C. Players must slide in any contact situation.
 - D. Stealing home is not permitted.
 - E. No delayed steals.
 - F. One base on a walk only.
 - G. Base runners cannot steal when adult is pitching
- VI. **FIELDING**
 - A. Only 10 players on a field at any one time (four outfielders).
 - B. All players present should field at least half the game.
 - C. All players present will bat in an order.
 - D. The infield fly rule will not be in effect for Girls' Junior League.
 - E. Outfielders may play no nearer than the edge of the outfield grass.
- VII. **PITCHING**
 - A. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of nine consecutive outs per game; an 11" softball will be used.
 - B. A pitcher cannot go back into pitch in the same game.
 - C. No balks will be called.
 - D. No walks will be allowed. Once a pitcher has thrown ball four, the batter's coach will pitch to the player until the ball is put in play or she strikes out.
 - E. Pitcher must keep one foot in the circle when adult is pitching.
- VIII. **OVERTHROWS**
 - A. In playing field - as many bases as runner can get.
 - B. Out of playing field – one base, unless from the outfield – two bases.
 - C. Continuous Play Rule. Runners can advance until the ball is back to the pitcher. If there is an overthrow to the pitcher, players cannot advance.
- IX. **ADDING PLAYERS**
 - A. Players may be added to any team roster ONLY by the Parks and Recreation Office. DO NOT do this on your own.
- X. **PROTESTS**
 - A. **NO PROTESTS - DECISION OF THE UMPIRE IS FINAL.**
- XI. **RULES NOT COVERED BY THIS PACKET**
 - A. All rules not covered above will be in accordance with the 2021 High School Girls' Softball Rules.