

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
CITY OF ESTHERVILLE  
2024 GIRL'S SENIOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL RULES  
(Currently in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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, 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.
  - a. Continuous Time Clock. If there is time left you keep playing. No new innings after 75 minutes of play. 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.
- C. There is a 12-run rule after three innings.
- D. Intentionally walking batters is not allowed.
- E. Pitching distance is 40 feet.
- F. Bases are set at 60 feet.
- G. Games called due to darkness, or weather will be restarted at the exact point it was called, and the normal game will be finished.
- H. Games may be started with 7 players. There will be no automatic outs for missing players. If a team has nine players on their roster, they may start a game with a minimum of six 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 “only deck batter”, “in the hole batter” and the “batter at the plate” should be up and out of the dugout.

**IV. STEALING**

- A. Base runners can lead off when the ball leaves the pitchers hand.
- B. Stealing home on passed balls is allowed.
- C. Batters can advance to first base on a dropped third strike if 1<sup>st</sup> base is open with less than two outs, or anytime there is two outs.
- D. Players must slide in any contact situation.
- E. No delayed steals.

**V. FIELDING**

- A. Only 9 players on a field at any one time (three outfielders).
- B. All players present should field at least half of each game.
- C. All players present will bat in an order.

**VI. PITCHING**

- A. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of fifteen consecutive outs per game.
- B. A pitcher cannot go back in to pitch in the same game.
- C. No balks will be called.
- D. Pitcher must be pulled on second visit in any inning.

**VII. 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.

**VIII. 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.

**IX. PROTESTS**

- A. **NO PROTESTS - DECISION OF THE UMPIRE IS FINAL.**

**X. RULES NOT COVERED BY THIS PACKET**

- A. All rules not covered above will be in accordance with the 2021 High School Girls Softball Rules.