

**5th/6th Grade Level**  
**2023 Dodge County Girls Softball League**

**Field Preparations:**

1. Bases are 60 feet apart. The pitcher's mound is 40 feet.
2. A double base will be used at 1st base.

**Game Rules:**

1. Balls used are Dudley 12", .47 core
2. A half inning consists of 3 outs or 5 runs scored. The 5 run rule is NOT in effect in the last last inning.
3. The count is 3 strikes and 4 balls. However, **no run can walk home**, *max of 3 walks/inning*. If the bases are loaded and the batter walks, ***the strike count carries forward and the batter's coach will pitch for remainder of count brought forward***. Continue swinging until she misses or hits a fair ball. Coaches discretion on where to pitch from.
4. Infield fly rule **is** in effect.
5. Dropped 3rd strike **is** in effect, no modifications.
  - a. If the catcher drops the 3rd strike WHEN first base is UNOCCUPIED or there are 2 outs, the batter may attempt to reach 1st base safely. The batter can begin this running (after first forgetting) anytime before she reaches the dugout or fenceline. ONCE the batter has reached the dugout or fence line, or has been touched by a coach, the batter is OUT.
6. If a batter is hit by a pitch, the batter is given first base. Attempts should be made to avoid being hit. Umpire's discretion here will be used. **If bases loaded, a run can score with hit by pitch.**
7. If the pitch hits the ground before crossing the plate and/or hitting the batter it is a *live ball*. If the batter swings and hits the ball, *it is a live play*. If the batter swings and misses, a strike.
8. Fielder, if fielding the ball, has priority (see long example in general rules for all levels)

**Pitching:**

1. The pitcher must start her windup with one foot on the pitching rubber.
2. Pivot foot must be in contact with the rubber or the ground (drag foot) ... only step backward can be taken off the mound!
3. Maximum of *four innings/pitcher/game*. *Innings can be split*.

**Base Running:**

1. Base stealing is allowed after the pitched ball leaves pitcher hand. Stealing home IS allowed.
2. Runners may take a lead off once the ball leaves pitcher hand. If the ball has not been hit, the runner must return to the base.
3. A batter reaching 1st base safely and overrunning the base may turn right or toward the dugout to return safely to the base. If an attempt has been made toward 2nd base, but turning left, she may be tagged out.
4. If the ball is overthrown, the runners shall be awarded the base to which they were headed only.
  - a. Ex #1 - An overthrow while a runner is going from 1st to 2nd base - the runner is awarded 3rd base.
  - b. Ex #2 - An overthrow while a runner is heading back to 1st base after going part way to 2nd - the runner is awarded 2nd base.
5. ***If a play is being made at home***, runners must attempt a slide at home to avoid a collision otherwise the umpire will give the runner a warning. The catcher can NOT block home plate or make a play for the runner if she does not have the ball. Again, umpire may give a warning here. If repetitive, an out can be called.