

# 2023 Southwest Summer League 3.4 Grade Girls Softball Rules

## WIAA RULES WILL BE USED EXCEPT FOR THE CHANGES LISTED BELOW

1. All rules are listed on our website at [www.swcl.org](http://www.swcl.org).
2. Each game is 5 innings, **no new inning shall start after 90 minutes from start of game. Next inning starts immediately after last out of previous inning**, during Regular Season.
3. Innings 1 thru 3 are closed innings. **Innings 1-3 you can score max of 4 runs. NO CONTINUATION.** The 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> innings are open innings; you may score as many runs as possible. If the game is tied after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning (or last inning of the game), it will remain a tie.
4. Mercy rule: 15 run rule after 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. 10 run rule after 5<sup>th</sup> inning.
5. Pitcher's mound is **35 feet** from the back of home plate to the front of the pitcher's mound rubber.
6. Pitchers can pitch 3 innings. One pitch counts as a full inning pitched. If the pitcher hits 3 batters in one inning, they will be removed from pitching and cannot return as pitcher for this game. Five warm up pitches between innings.
7. Pitchers are requested to drag their back foot as they leave the rubber if they leave the rubber. Leaping and crow hopping are not legal in high school and this league is to prepare players for high school. Coaches need to teach the correct techniques. There are no illegal pitches in this league currently, but it doesn't do girls any good to do it incorrectly. Please view the videos at [wiaawi.org](http://wiaawi.org) if you have questions.
8. Catchers cannot come into pitch unless there is an injury.  
-i.e., a catcher cannot come into pitch within the same inning unless there is an injury. If a player is not catching that inning, they can pitch.
9. **NO WALKS.** If a pitcher throws 4 balls to a batter, it is not a walk. A coach from the batting team will come in to pitch to each batter with 4 balls. **Called strikes count as well as swings. A batter CAN strike out.** Batters hit by pitches from opposing pitcher do count. Batters are not rewarded a base when hit by a pitch thrown by a coach. **Coach will pitch from the rubber. Max of 4 pitches from the coach unless foul ball. After the fourth pitch from coach, the batter will be out. If a player fouls off on the 4th Coach's pitch it will be treated like a foul ball on a second strike. The batter will be allowed another pitch. If the batter does not swing on the 4th pitch, the batter is out.** *Swing batter, batter, swing.*
10. Batters hit by pitch - **The batter must make an attempt to avoid the pitch.** They cannot just let the ball hit them and be awarded a base. This is even if the ball hits the ground first prior to the batter. **Please note that the umpire makes the final call.**
11. **Displaced pitcher should have 1 foot in imaginary pitcher's circle, no 5<sup>th</sup> infielder.**
12. **Ball in play, Once the pitcher has the ball on the pitcher's mound, the runners may only advance to their next base. Runners cannot advance farther without being played on.**
13. No stealing. No leaving base until ball has crossed home plate. No running/stealing on a dropped third strike.
14. No bunting, no fake bunting (slashing).
15. No infield fly rule in effect.
16. Fielders are never allowed to block a base/plate without the ball, this is obstruction. Base runners have the right to the base if the ball is not there. Runners must **AVOID CONTACT OR SLIDE** when there is a play at any base and home plate, or she will be called out. If defender does not have control of the ball, runner must avoid malicious contact.
17. Maximum of 10 players on defense. **FORFEIT** if less than 8 players to start the game. May play game, record forfeit.
18. 2nd Graders may be brought up during the season to participate in 3/4 Grade to help make a complete team. It is required that the player participate in that community's rec program.
19. **All infielders including pitcher must wear fielders face mask.**
20. **Outfielders/rover should be ~ >20 feet behind baseline. No extra infielder.**
21. Helmets must be worn on offense. Helmet is to be worn until back at bench/dug-out area. The 1st time a runner takes helmet off outside bench area, it is a warning, each time after will be called an out. Calls are made by umpires.
22. There are no metal spikes at any level, this is a rec league.
23. Batting the bench, Teams must bat the bench in all league games including tournament games. No out for legitimately injured player. The last out may courtesy run for the pitcher or catcher if there are 1 or 2 outs.
24. **For 3/4 grade, no outs will be taken for less than 10 players in the tournament. Teams can play with 8 players.**
25. Players are only allowed to play on one team in each division (3/4,5/6,7/8)
26. Home teams are responsible for getting umpires. Umpires must be high school age or older on both home plate and bases. Umpire's decision is final. Plate umpire is to wear shin guards, chest protector, and mask. Plate umpire to print his or her name in both teams' scorebooks.
27. Rainouts will continue where you left off. A complete game is 3 innings. (2-1/2 innings if home team is ahead)

28. Cancelled games should be rescheduled. Games not made up before the tournament, due to rain will count as a tie. If a team needs to cancel a game for reasons other than weather, that team will be responsible to create a makeup date suitable for both teams or they forfeit the game.
29. Home teams are responsible for furnishing a new softball to play the game, plus a good spare softball. Softball suggested Dudley 11" yellow, core max of .47.
30. The winning team needs to report scores on our website (SWCL.org). Failure to report the score of a game will result in a forfeit by each team. *Coaches should verify final score and sign opponent's book.* **Any team with 2 or more unreported scores by the deadline, the current head coach will not be allowed to coach the next year unless a \$150 fine is paid to the SWCL.**
31. The community that hosts the year end tournament will receive \$100 per game. Home plate umpire needs to be WIAA certified. Tournament games will be played at host site starting Thursday night.
32. Tournament games will be completed to 5 innings unless 10 run rule is in effect or both coaches agree. Last out from previous inning to start on 2<sup>nd</sup> base in all extra innings during the tournament only.
33. Players must play 50% of regular season games to participate in Tournament, unless certifiable injury
34. Tournament only: Pitchers get one extra inning of pitching eligibility in 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> inning if necessary.
35. Tournament seeding tiebreaker. 1. Head to Head. 2. Least runs allowed. 3. Record against higher seeds. 4. Coin flip.