THE CARTOON BOOK OF

FOOTBALL (SOCCER)



GOAL & INVASION

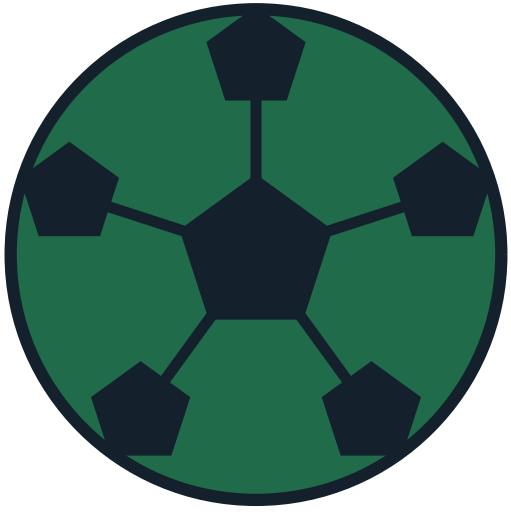
SPORT ON EARTH

Sport on Earth Books · The Ball & goal Family

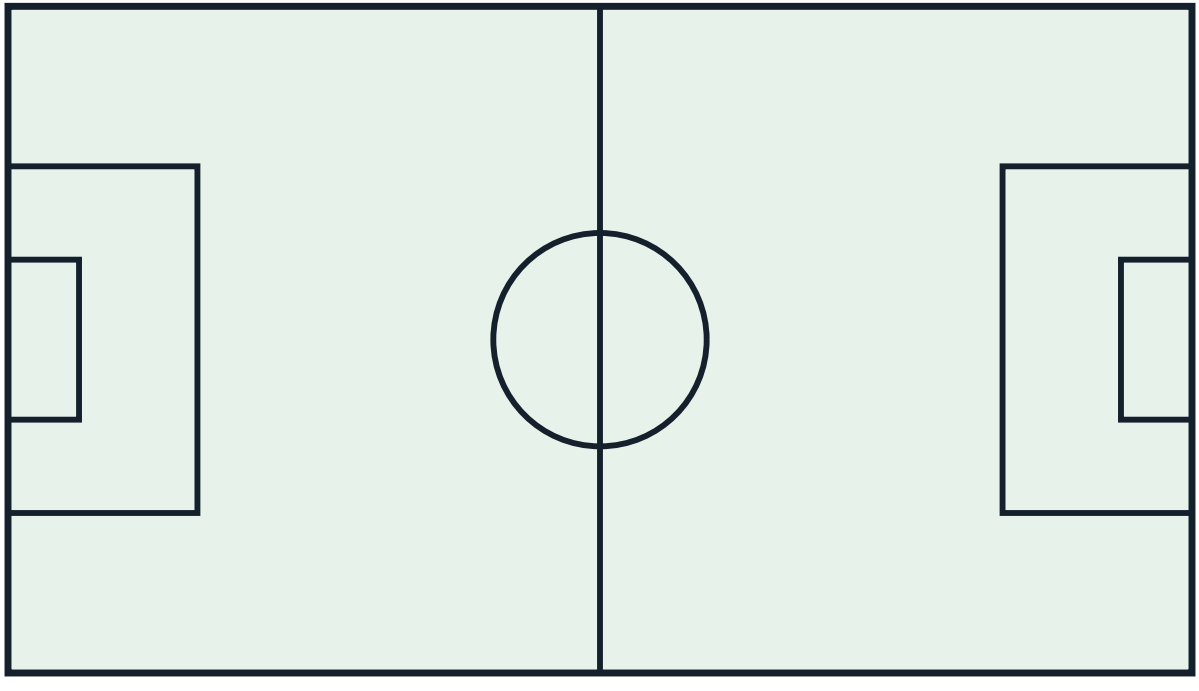
Original illustrations · No characters were copied in the making of this book

Meet Football (Soccer)!

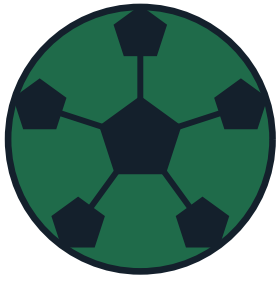
Two teams of 11 try to score in the opposing goal, mostly without using hands. Matches last 90 minutes, with a draw, extra time, or penalties deciding knockouts.

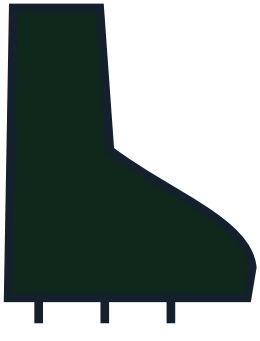


Where It Is Played



The Gear





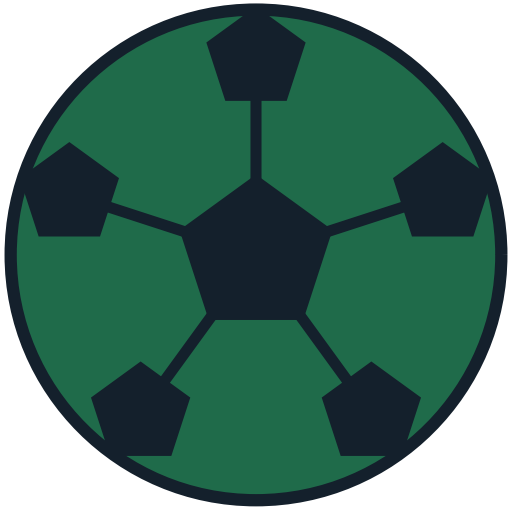


Meet the Ball & goal Family

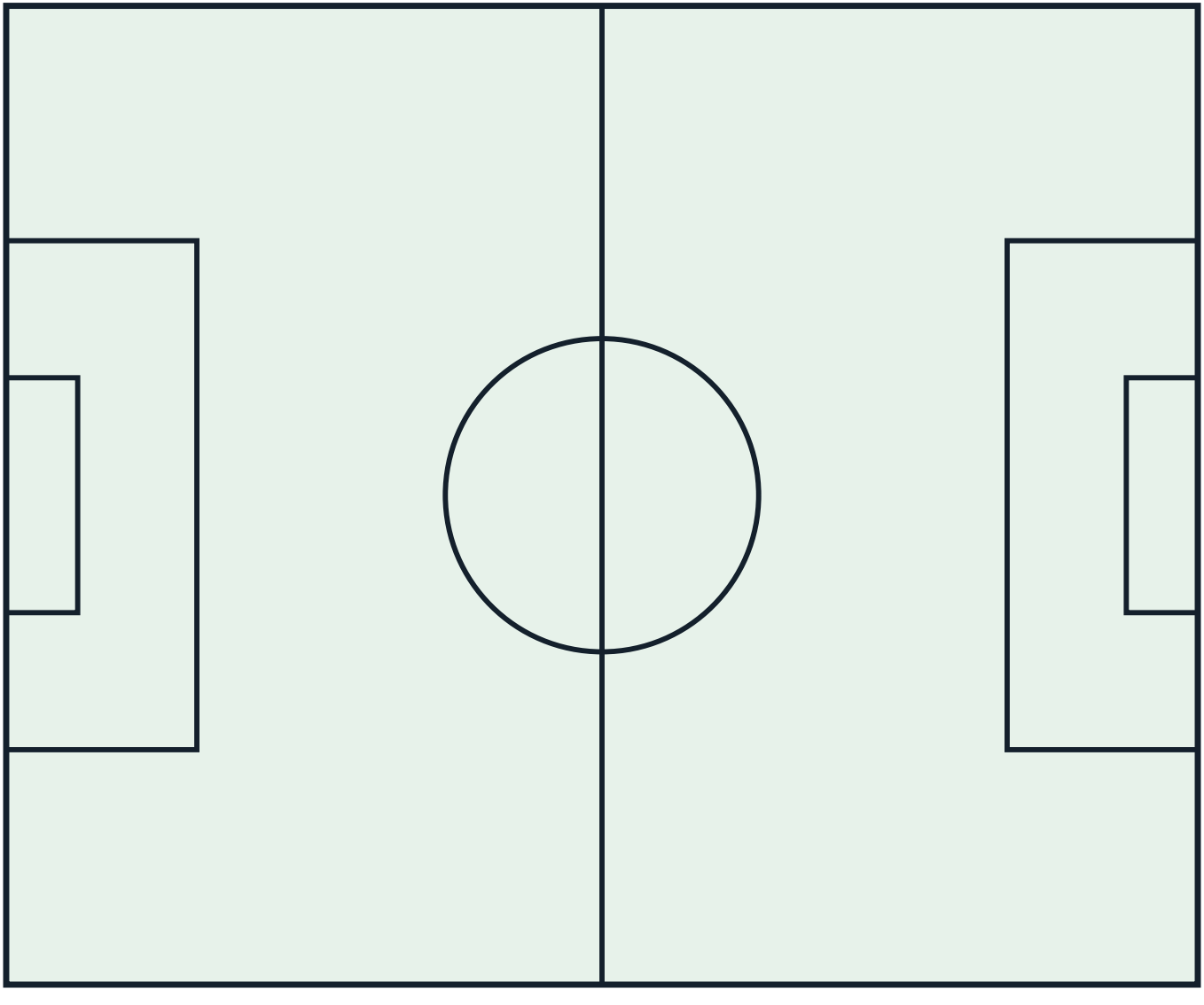
- Rugby Union — Fifteen a side, full contact, with the ball passed backwards.
- Rugby League — Thirteen a side with six tackles per possession. A faster, more continuous game than union.
- American Football — Eleven a side; advance the ball 10 yards in four downs or score touchdowns and field goals.
- Australian Rules Football — Eighteen a side on a large oval. Kick or handball the ball and score goals (6 points) or…
- Canadian Football — Twelve-a-side gridiron game with three downs, run by the CFL.
- Gaelic Football — Irish field sport mixing soccer and rugby, run by the GAA.

How to Play

Soccer's Laws of the Game are kept by IFAB and change slowly — which makes the changes that do happen seismic. Almost every one of these rewrote how the sport is played at every level on earth, from the World Cup final to Sunday league.



The Playing Area



Good to Know

The Story So Far

Codified in England in 1863; FIFA formed in 1904 and the first World Cup was held in 1930.



Rules That Changed the Game

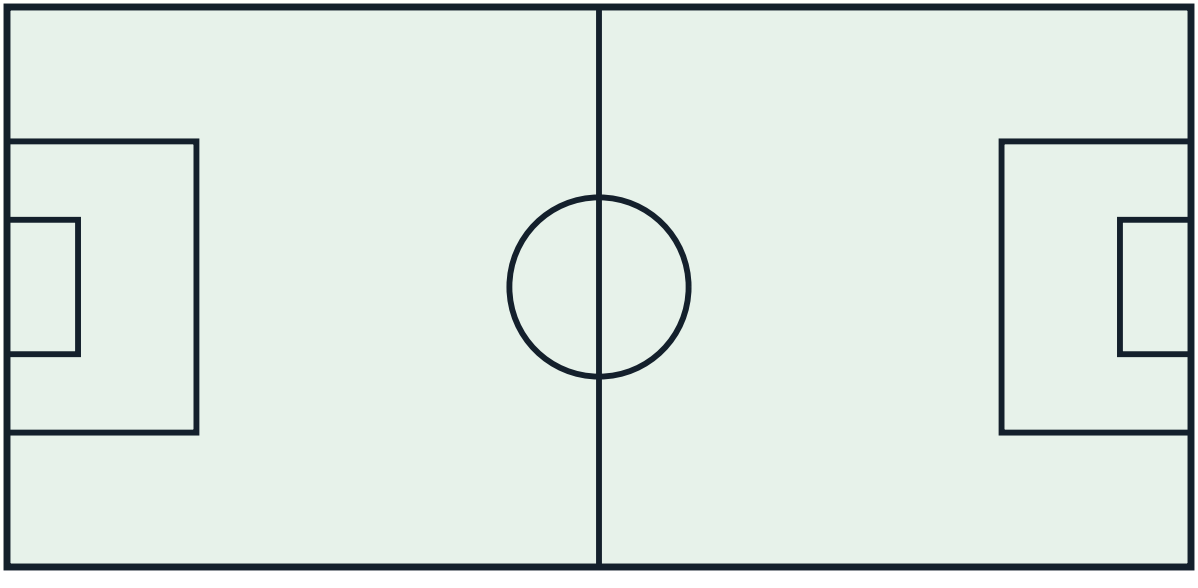
- 1925 — The 1925 Offside Change: Every offside debate since — level-is-onside (1990), active-play interpretations (2003–05), semi-automated offside technology (202.
- 1970 (first World Cup shoot-out 1982) — Penalty Shoot-Outs Enter the Laws: The shoot-out is now the sport's defining pressure ritual — entire careers (Baggio 1994, England's decades of defeats) are remembe.
- 1981 — Three Points for a Win: Three-for-a-win is now so universal that fans assume it is ancient law.
- 1992 — The Back-Pass Rule: It is routinely ranked the best law change ever made: time-wasting collapsed, pressing was born as a system (defences could no lon.

More Game-Changing Rules

- 1993–2004 (silver goal 2002–2004) — The Golden Goal — and Its Abolition: Full extra time and penalties returned permanently, and the golden goal survives as a period curiosity — replayed whenever Bierhof.
- approved 2012; World Cup debut 2014 — Goal-Line Technology: GLT is now invisible and uncontroversial — the model of successful technology adoption against which the far messier VAR (next ent.
- trials 2016; Laws 2018; World Cup 2018 — VAR — the Video Assistant Referee: VAR is now embedded in every major league, endlessly re-litigated weekly — offside measured to millimetres ('armpit offsides'), ha.
- 2019 — The 2019 Handball Rewrite: Handball remains football's most argued law, but the argument is now about arm positions and silhouettes rather than telepathy — t.

The Sport Today

Domestic leagues (Premier League, La Liga, Brasileirao, J-League, MLS) plus continental clubs competitions such as the Champions League and Copa Libertadores.



At School and College

Strong in the US (NCAA, NAIA) and school and university leagues worldwide; most countries run youth academies through clubs instead.

Play It Near You

Local and Sunday leagues, futsal, beach soccer, street football, and women's and disability football.

Through the Year

World Cup every four years; domestic seasons run roughly Aug to May in Europe; continental cups (AFCON, Asian Cup, Euros, Copa America) every two to four years.

The Ball & goal Family

Every sport belongs to a family of games that share its shapes and skills. Here are some of this book's closest relatives — each with a cartoon book and a colouring book of its own.

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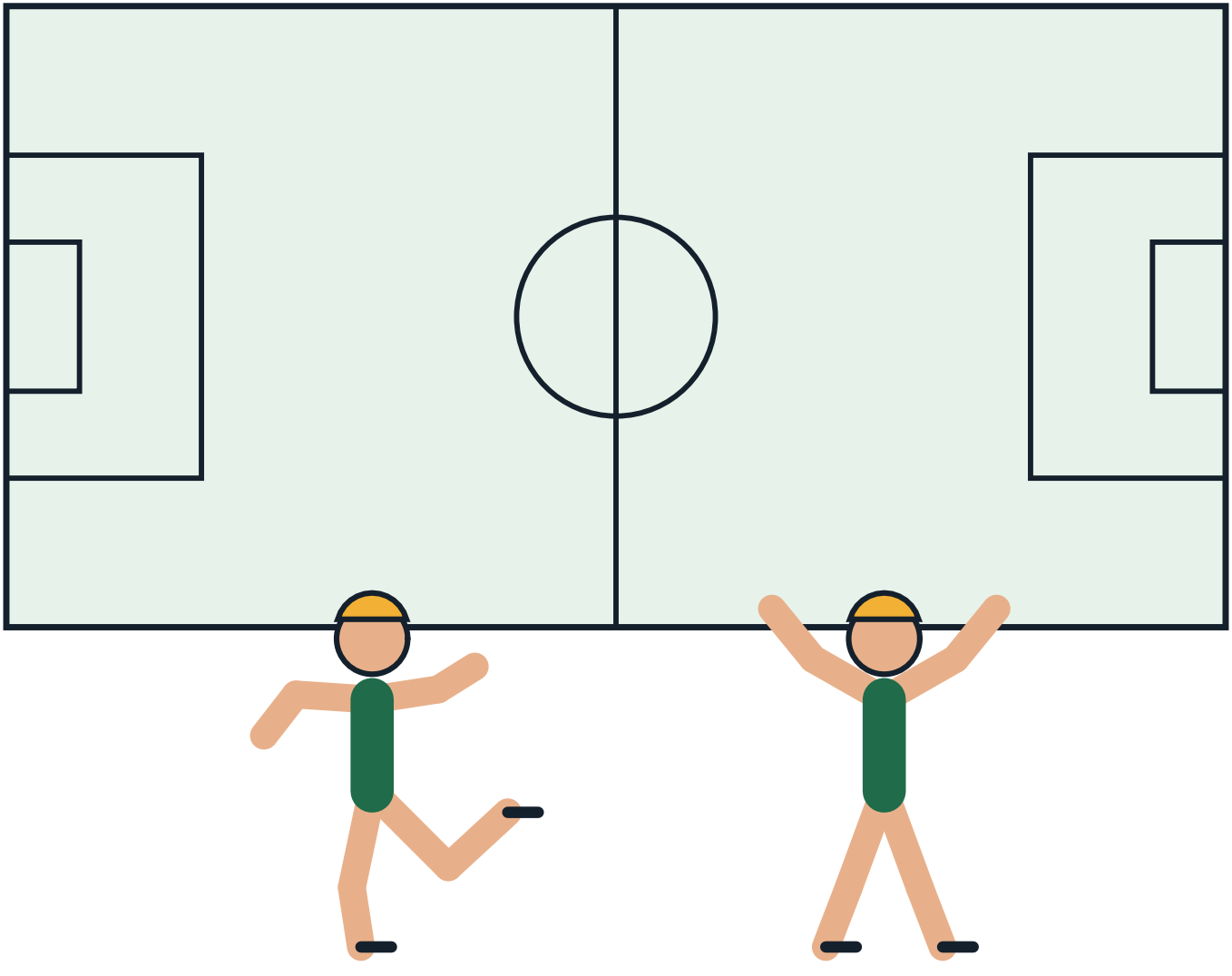
Game Day!

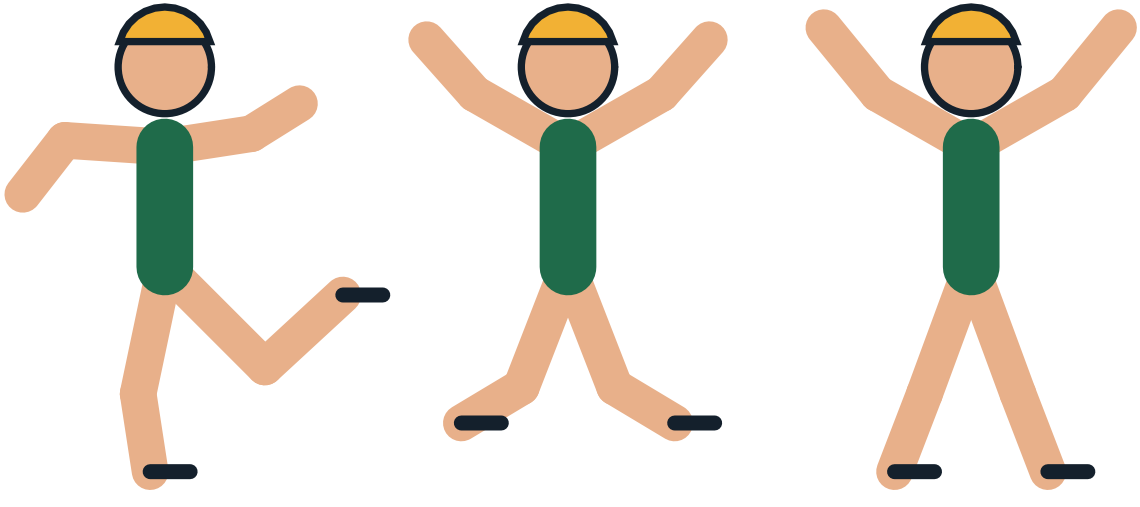


The Sport on Earth Mark

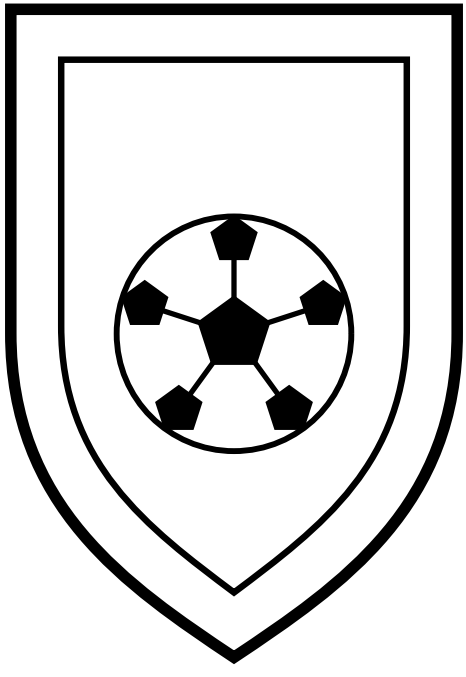
Every sport on Sport on Earth carries its own original mark, drawn for the site. Here is this sport's.



Moves of the Game



Design a Badge

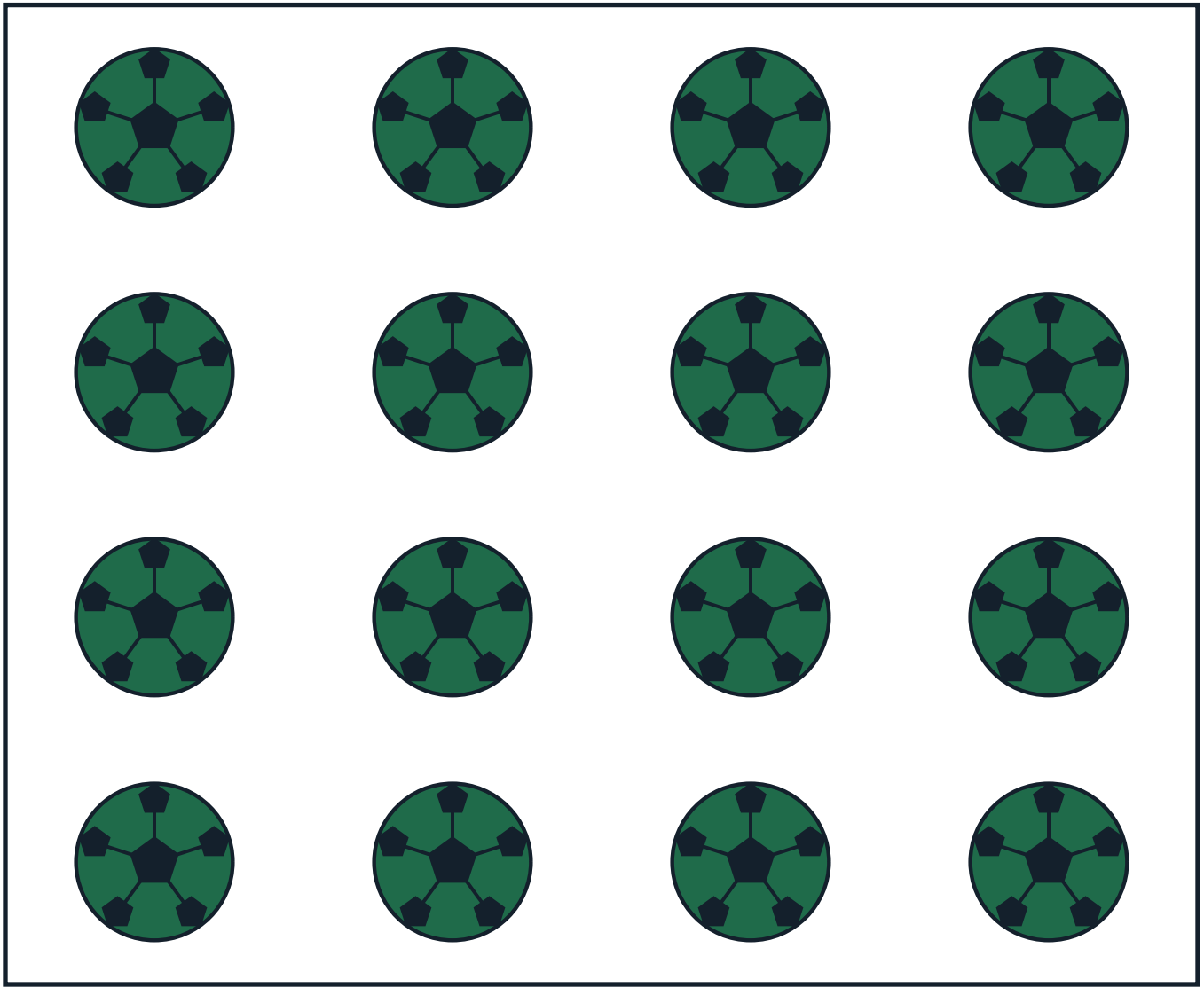


Draw and colour a badge for your own team.

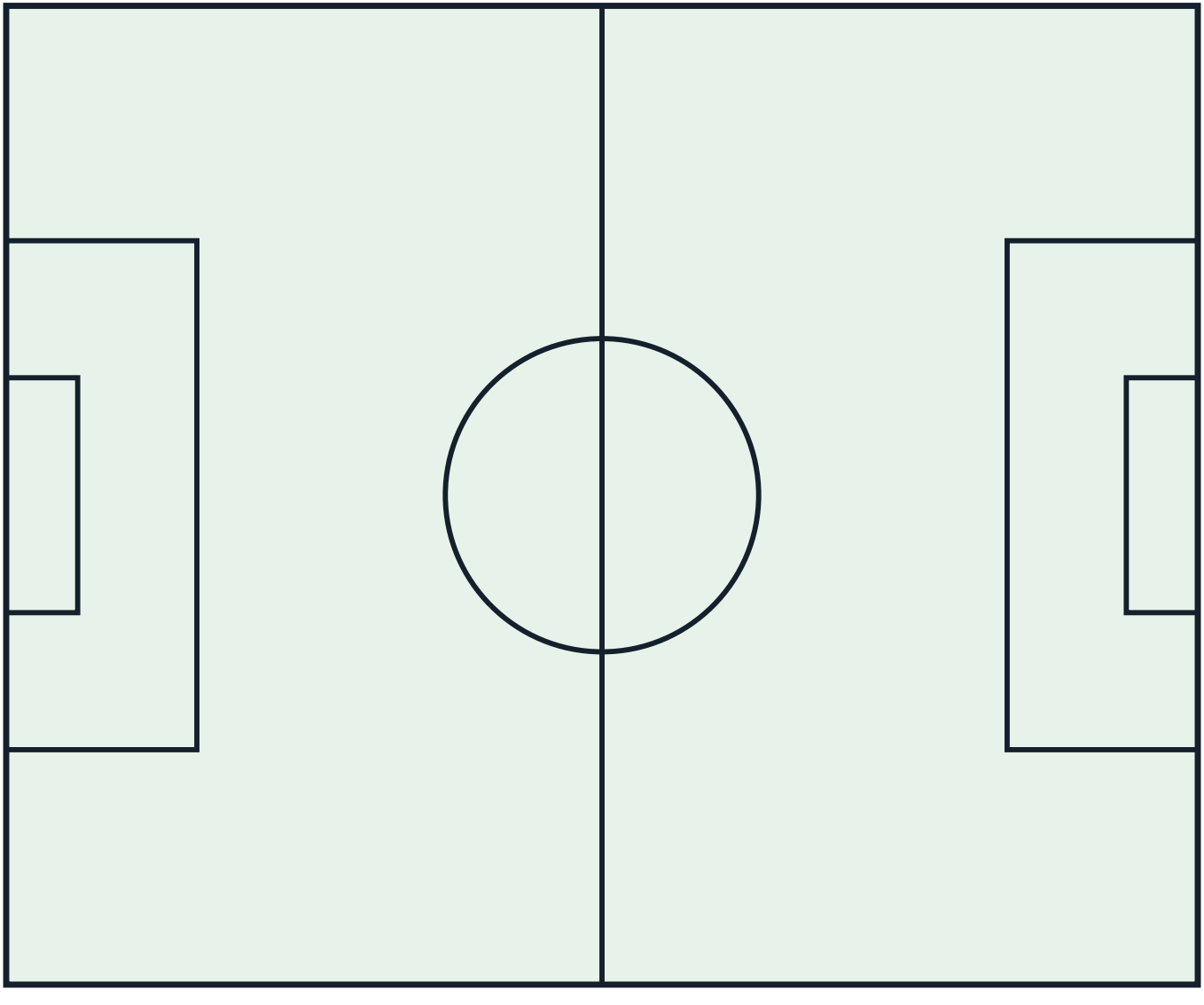
The Gear Parade



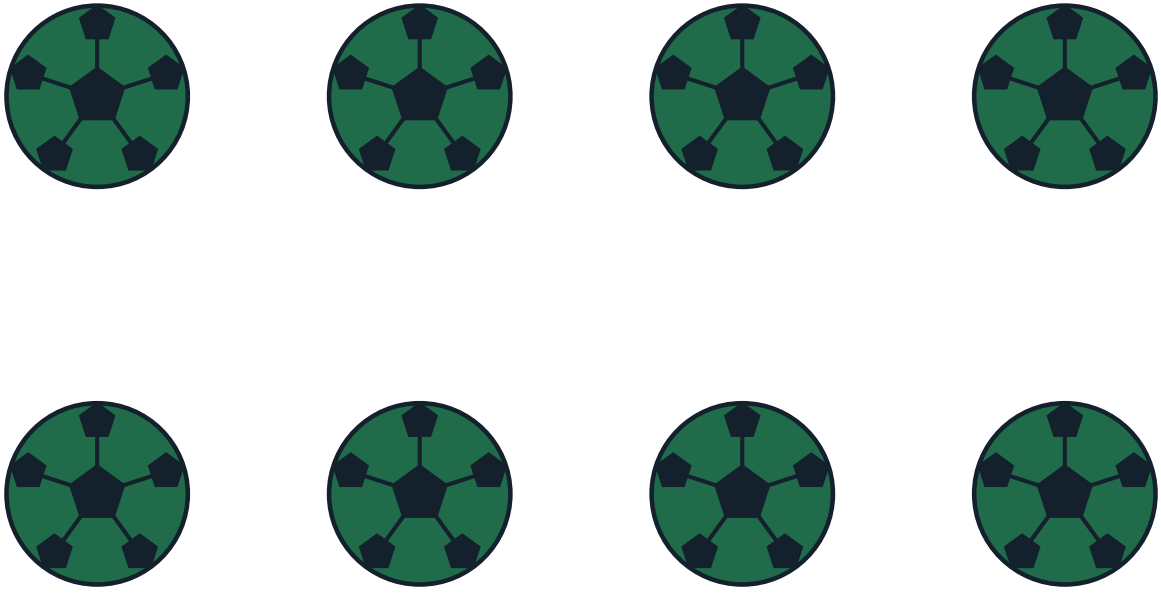
Pattern Play



The Arena From Above



Count the Balls!



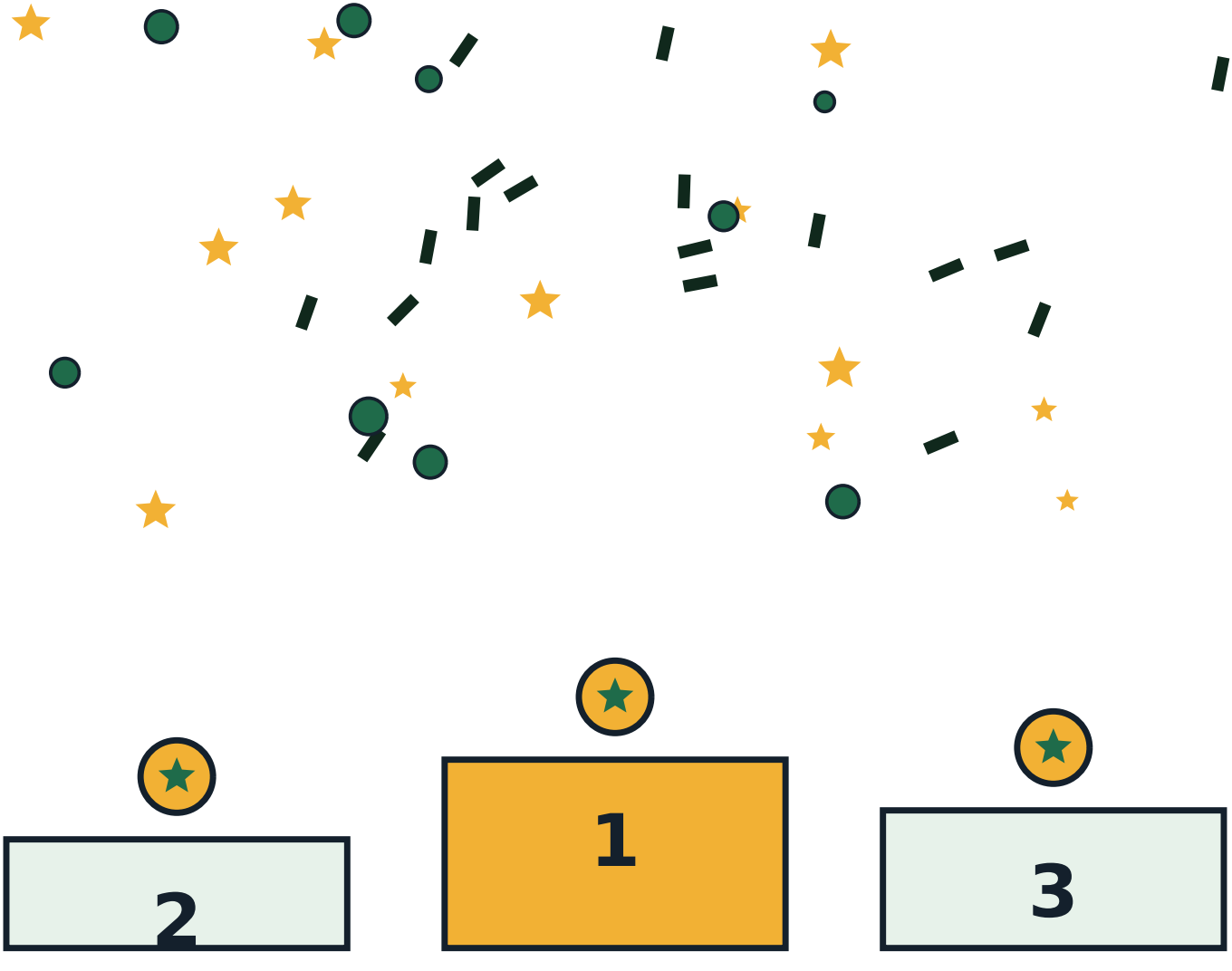
How many can you count? Write the number here: _____

My Favourite Part of Football (Soccer)

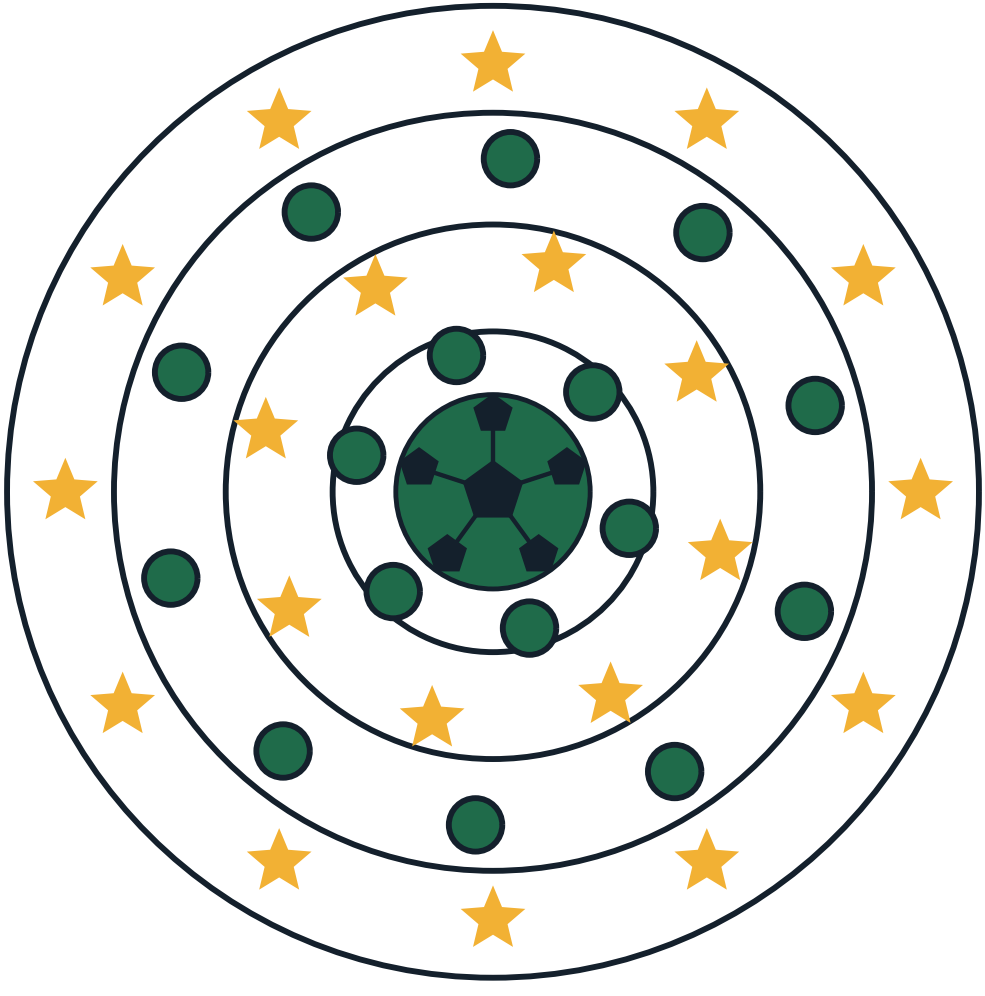
Gear Close-Up



Champions!



The Mandala of the Game



About This Book

Rule-change history: IFAB Laws of the Game and their amendment history; FIFA competition records; the documented histories of the 1925, 1992 and 2016–2022 law changes.. Everything in this book comes from Sport on Earth's own verified sport files — the same words you can read on the sport's page at Sport on Earth. The illustrations are original artwork drawn by computer for this book series. They are not pictures of real players, real teams or anybody else's characters.

More Books in the Family

- The Cartoon Book of Rugby Union
- The Cartoon Book of Rugby League
- The Cartoon Book of American Football
- The Cartoon Book of Australian Rules Football
- The Cartoon Book of Canadian Football
- The Cartoon Book of Gaelic Football
- The Rugby Union Colouring Book
- The Rugby League Colouring Book

My Notes

Football (Soccer)

The Cartoon Book of Football (Soccer) — a Sport on Earth Book.

Text from Sport on Earth's verified sport files. Illustrations: original programmatic artwork created for this series, including the site's own sport mark. No copyrighted characters, team logos or player likenesses appear in this book.

Collect the whole shelf: a cartoon book and a colouring book for every one of the 442 sports and games on Sport on Earth.

