THE CARTOON BOOK OF

KORFBALL



NET & WALL

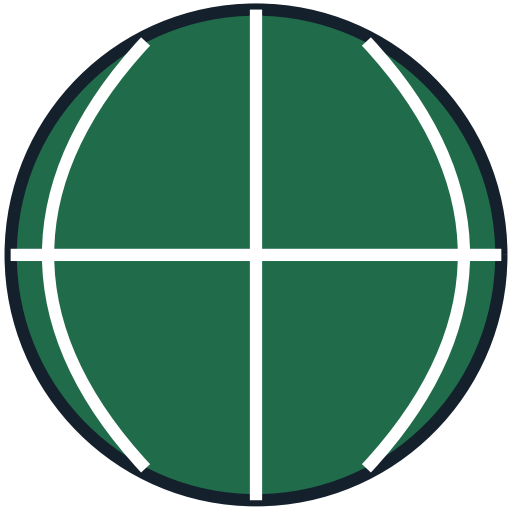
SPORT ON EARTH

Sport on Earth Books · The Ball & goal Family

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

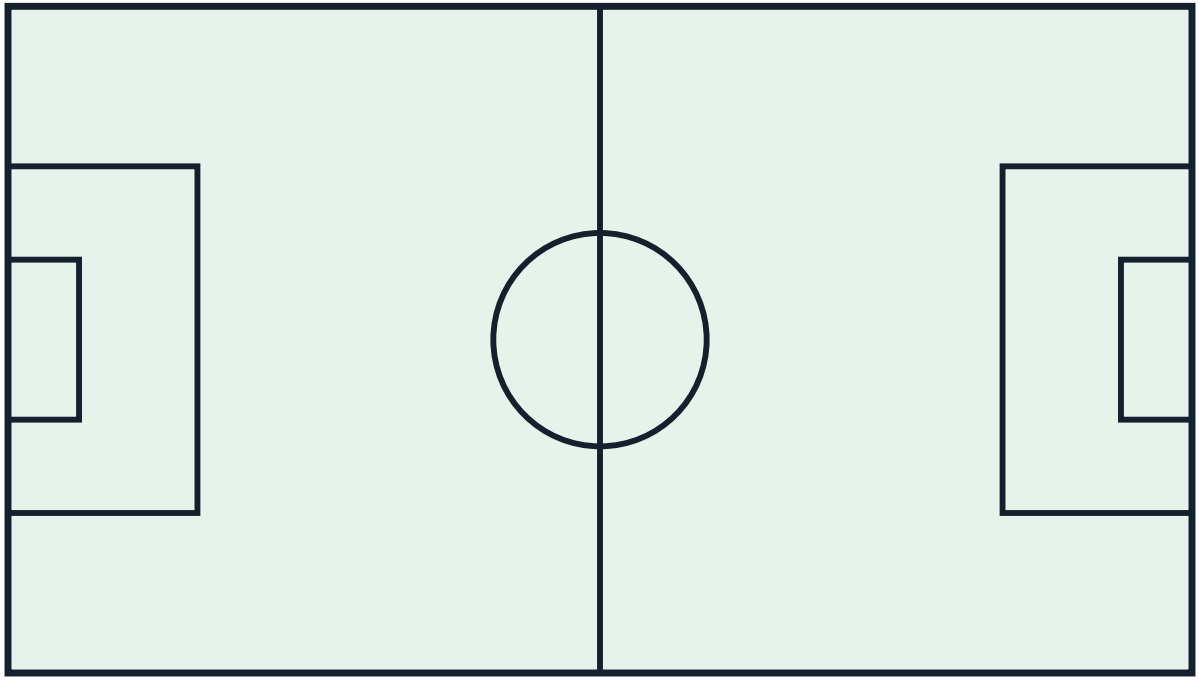
Meet Korfball!

Mixed-gender Dutch sport shooting at baskets on posts.



Where It Is Played

Field of play 40 m x 20 m, divided into two equal zones by a centre line, with a penalty spot 2.50 m in front of each post.



The Gear

An IKF-approved size 5 ball (circumference 68.0-70.5 cm, 445-475 g) and two posts with bottomless cylindrical korfs, top edge 3.50 m above the ground.



How It Starts

Form two mixed teams, put two men and two women from each team in each zone, and start with a throw-off from near the centre line.



How to Play

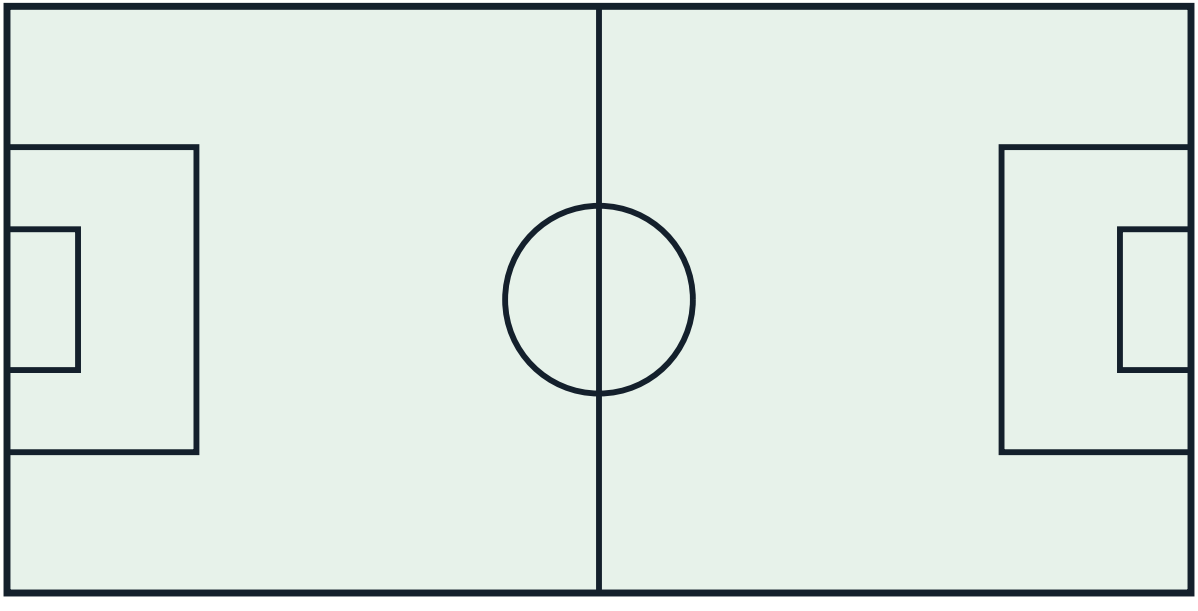
- Two mixed teams play by hand on a rectangular field; each starting team is four men and four women, with two of each gender placed in each of the two zones.
- A goal is scored when the ball passes completely through the korf from above and is worth one point; the team scoring the most goals wins, and no goal counts if thrown directly from the attacking team's defence zone, a throw-off, a free pass or a re-start.
- Every time two goals have been scored, the players change zones, so attackers become defenders and defenders become attackers.
- A match is two halves of 25 minutes of real playing time; a draw is decided by a ten-minute golden-goal period, then a penalty shoot-out with penalty takers alternating male and female.
- The attacking team is limited by a 25-second shot clock in the attack zone.

More of the Game

- Running with the ball is prohibited: a player in possession may only pivot on one foot, and solo play that deliberately avoids cooperation with a teammate is also prohibited.
- Shooting from a defended position is prohibited: a shot is defended when the defender is actively trying to block, within one arm's length, nearer the post than the attacker and facing the attacker.
- Hindering an opponent of the opposite gender in throwing the ball is an infringement, and only controlled physical contact is permitted.
- The home team starts the match with a throw-off, taken by an attacker no more than 2 m from the centre of the field, and the team that conceded a goal restarts with the throw-off after each goal.

The Shape of a Match

Two mixed teams of eight (four men, four women) shoot a ball into the opponent's korf, swapping attacking and defending zones after every two goals.



More of the Ball & goal Family

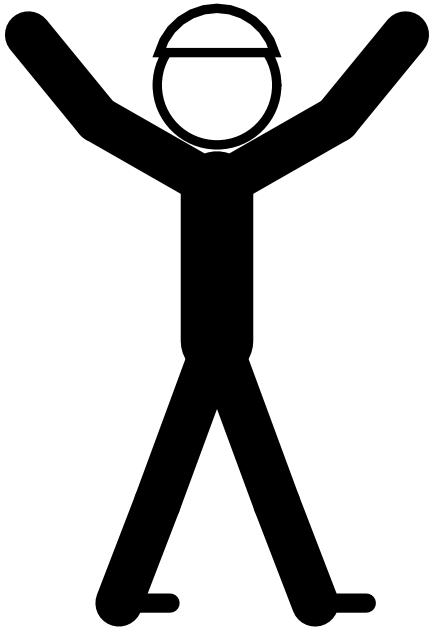
- Football (Soccer) — Two teams of 11 try to score in the opposing goal, mostly without using hands.
- Rugby Union — Fifteen a side, full contact, with the ball passed backwards.
- Rugby League — Thirteen a side with six tackles per possession. A faster, more continuous game than union.
- American Football — 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.

A Note on the Rules

Korfball is governed by the International Korfball Federation (IKF) under the code devised by Nico Broekhuysen in 1902 — and one of its founding rules remains its identity: teams are MIXED-GENDER BY LAW (four men and four women), players defend only opponents of their own sex, and the court's two zones force every player to both attack and defend. The code's changes across a century have been refinements (court sizes, shot-clock experiments at elite level) rather than replacements. No major documented rule change is carried for korfball.

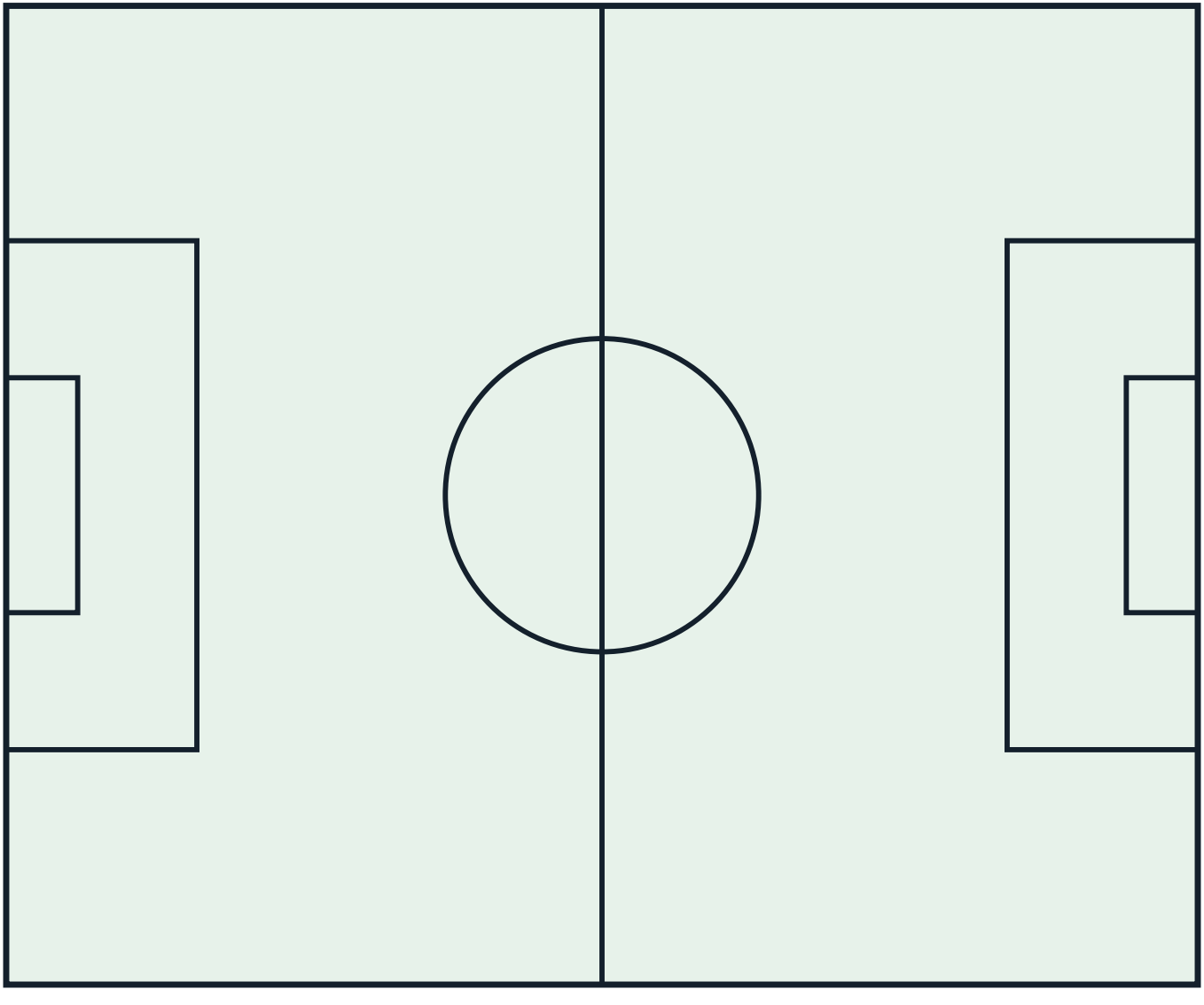


Colour the Action



Psst — this page is a colouring page!

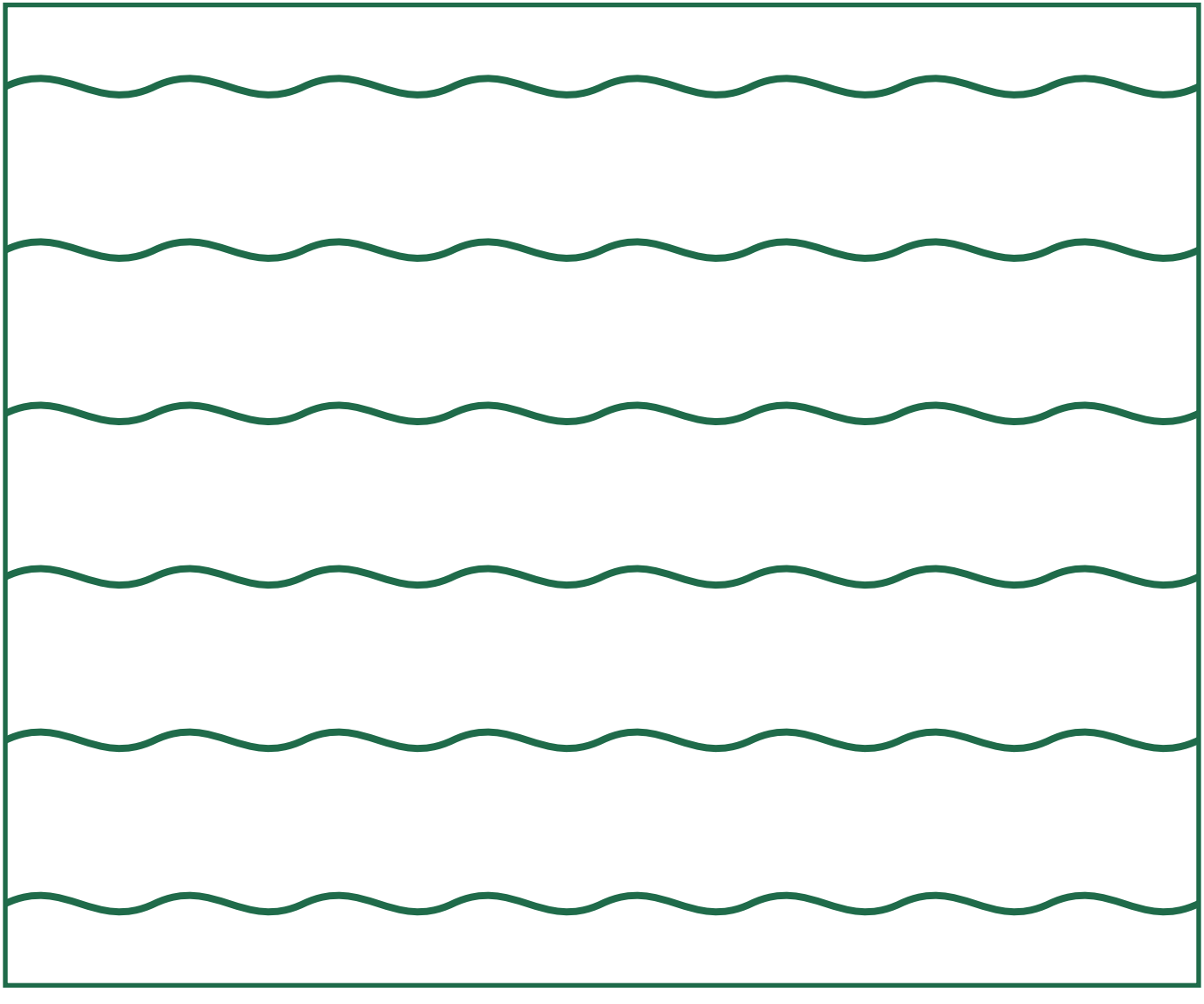
The Sport Today



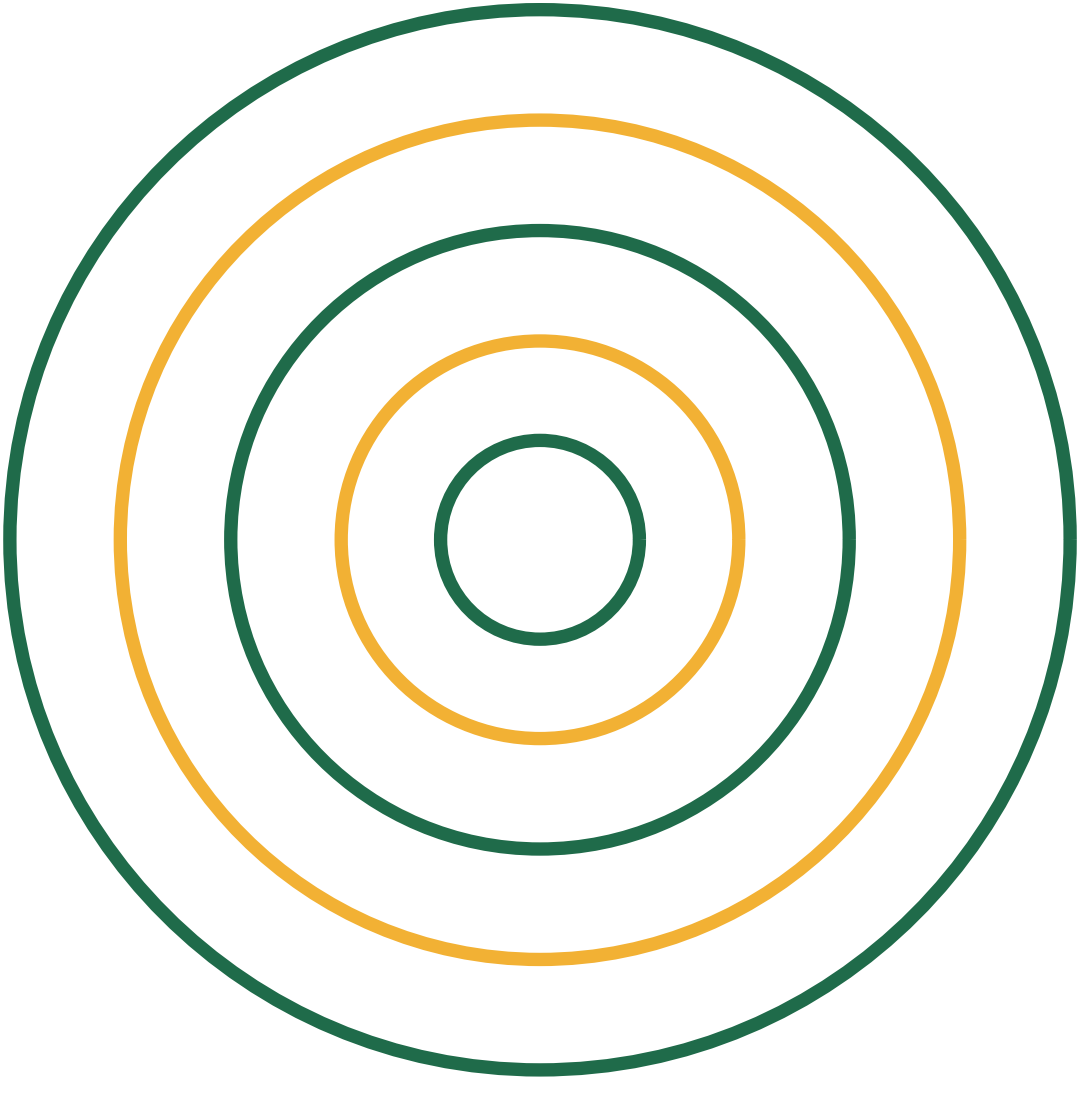
At School and College



Play It Near You



Through the Year

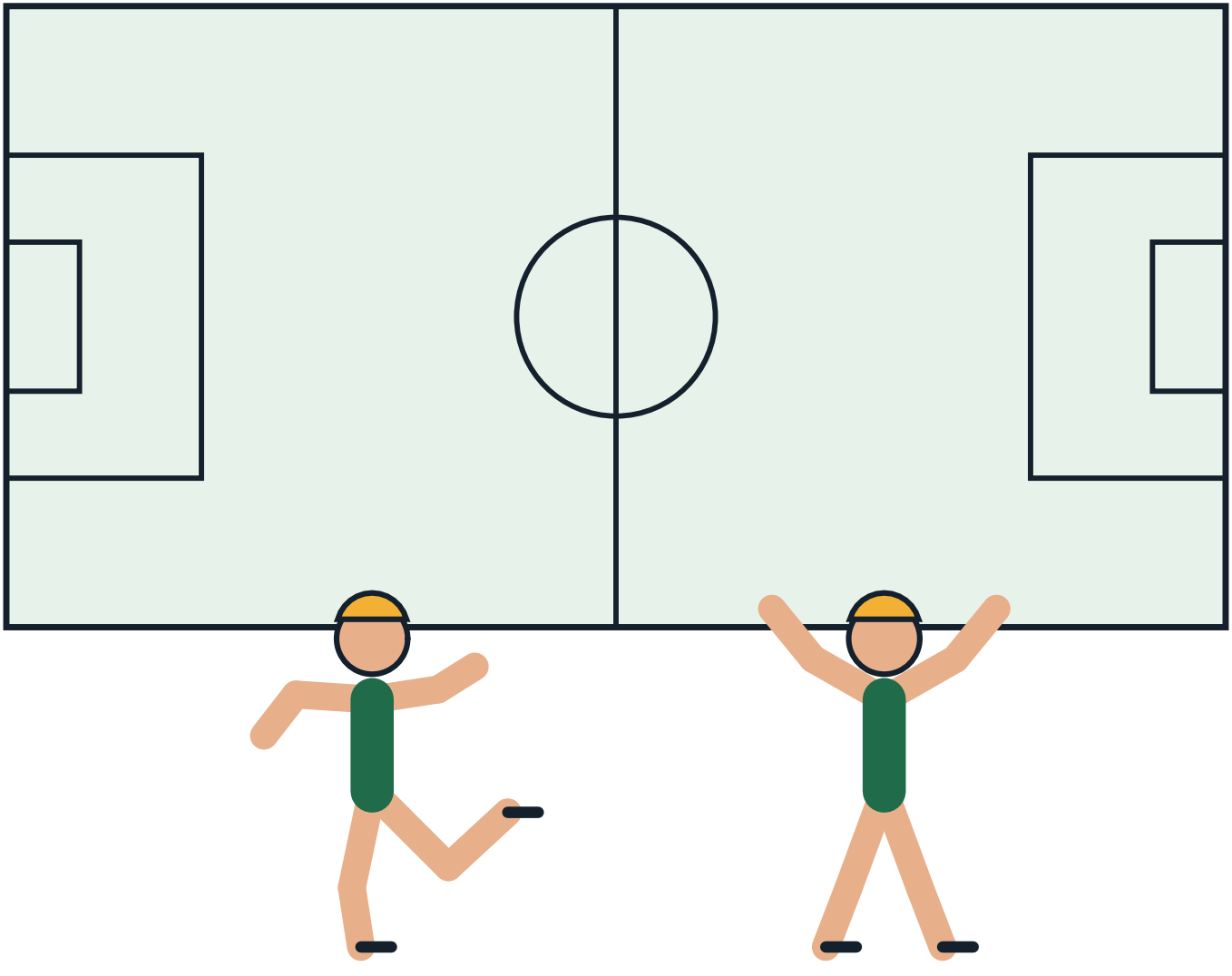


The Ball & goal Family

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.

- Football (Soccer) — Two teams of 11 try to score in the opposing goal, mostly without using hands.
- 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…

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.



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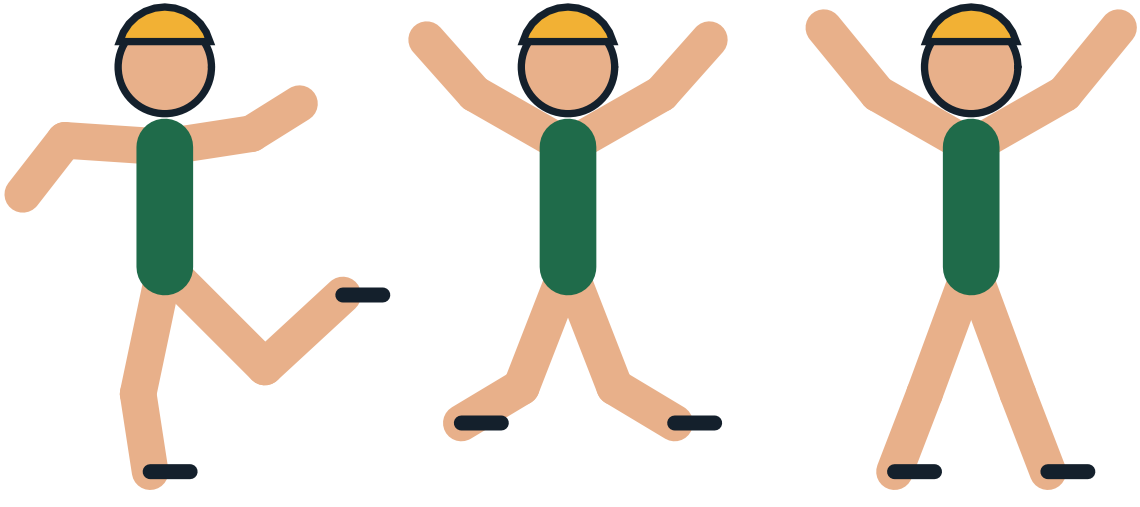
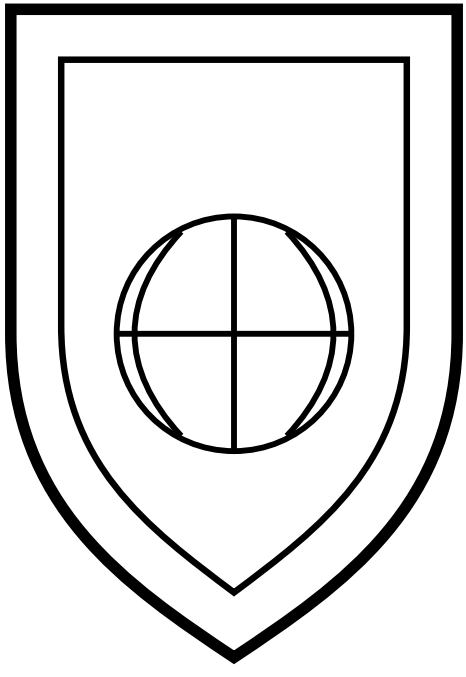
Moves of the Game



Design a Badge

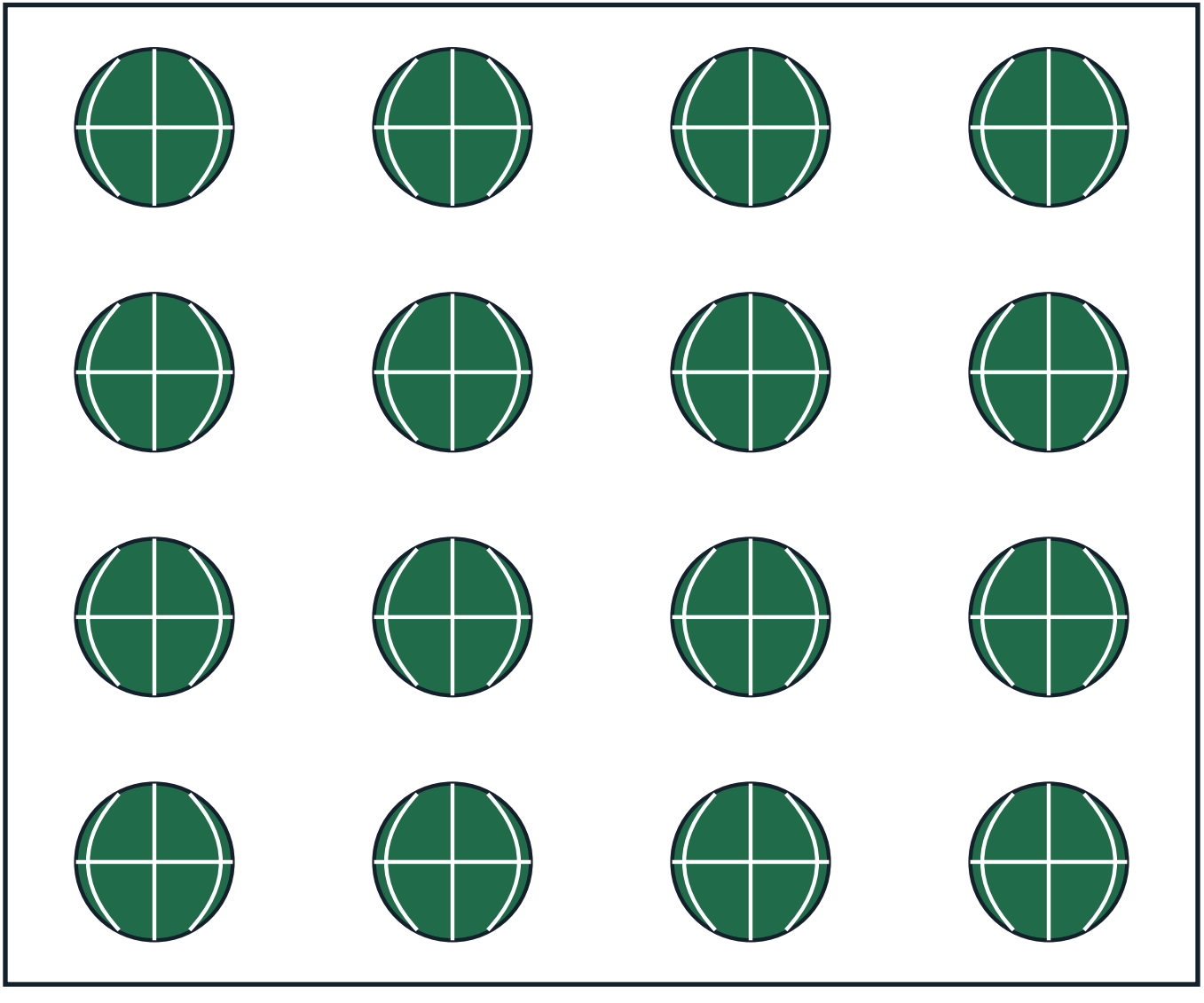


Draw and colour a badge for your own team.

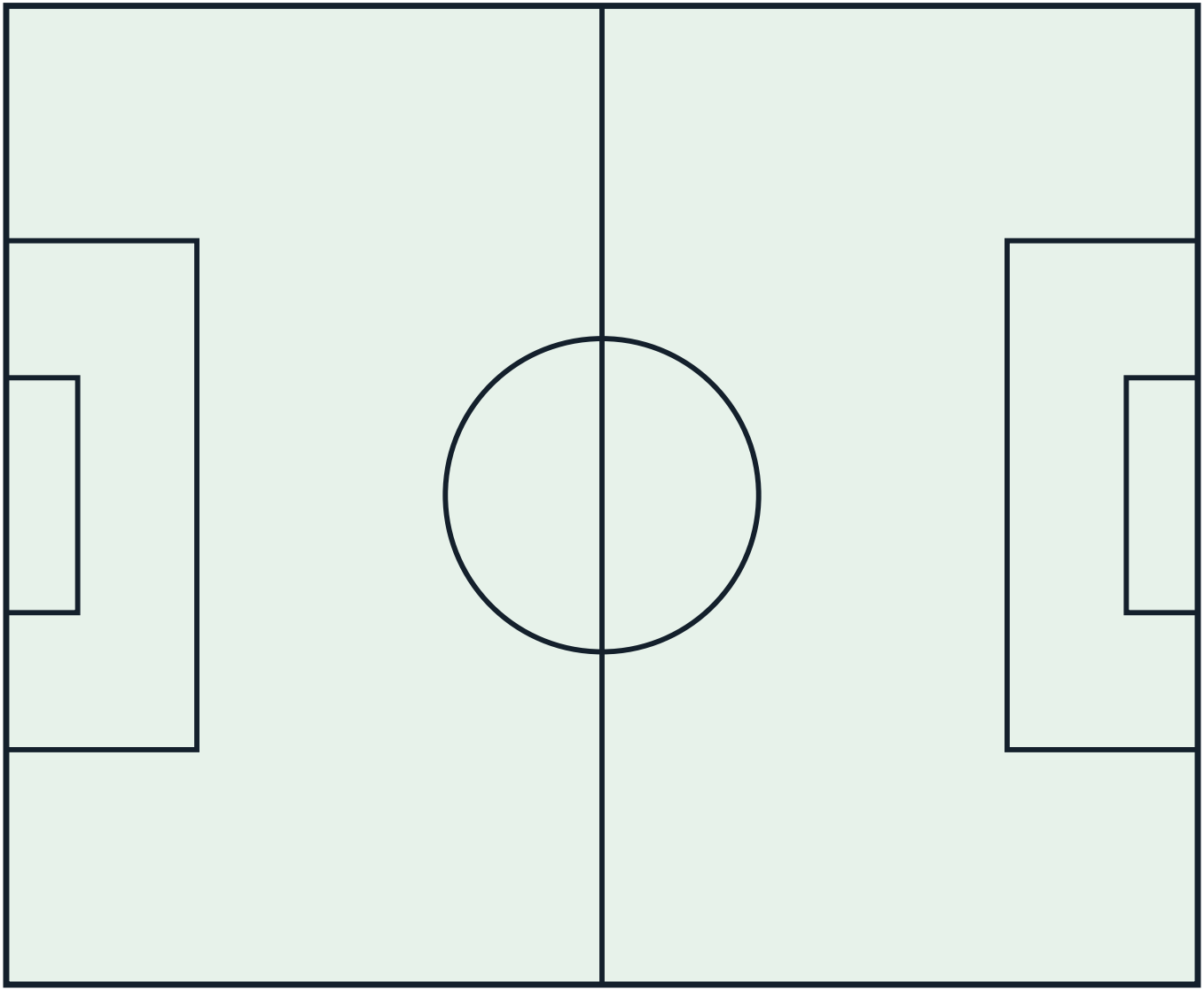
The Gear Parade



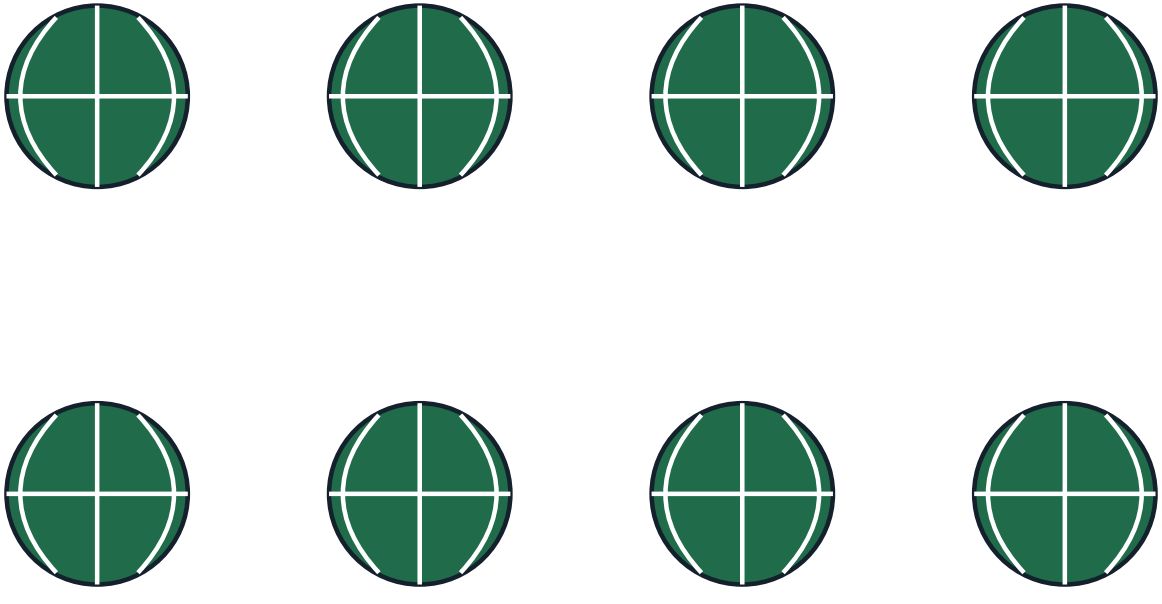
Pattern Play



The Arena From Above



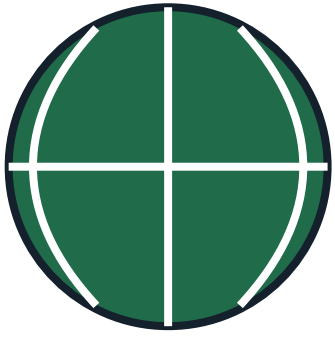
Count the Balls!



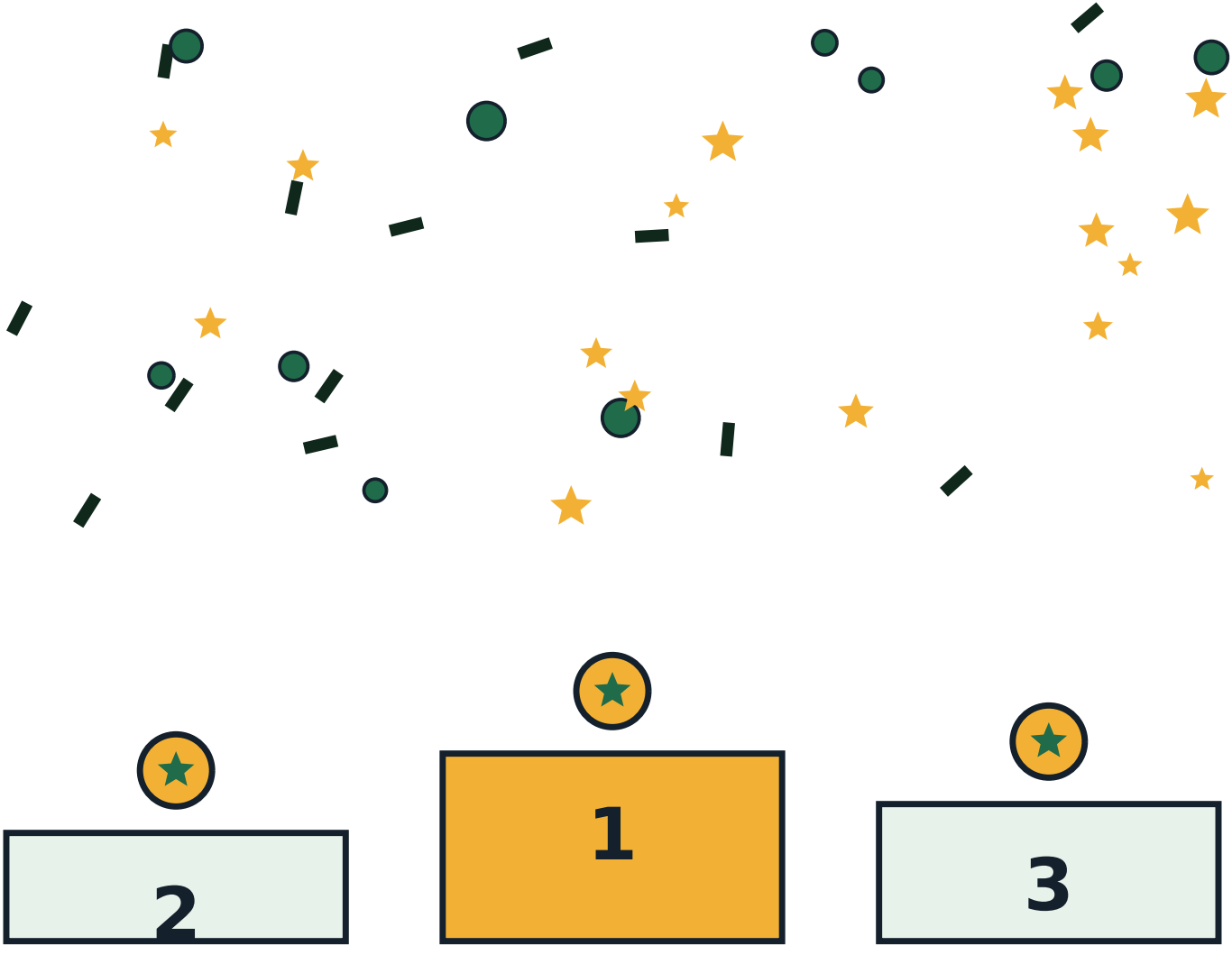
How many can you count? Write the number here: _____

My Favourite Part of Korfball

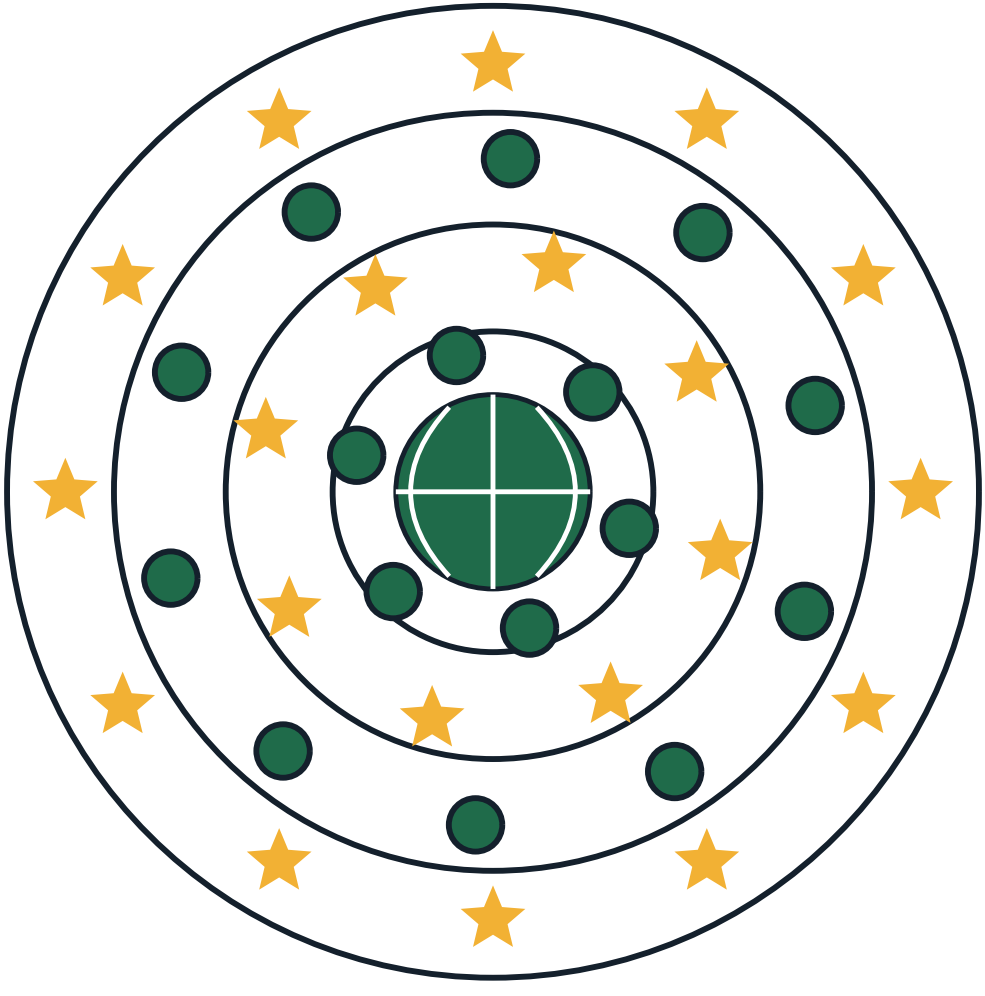
Gear Close-Up



Champions!



The Mandala of the Game



About This Book

Governing body: International Korfball Federation (IKF). Laws edition the site's rules file follows: The Rules of Korfball, published June 2026, valid from 1 September 2026. 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 Football (Soccer)
- 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 Football (Soccer) Colouring Book
- The Rugby Union Colouring Book

My Notes

Korfball

The Cartoon Book of Korfball — 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.

