THE CARTOON BOOK OF

RUGBY UNION



GOAL & INVASION

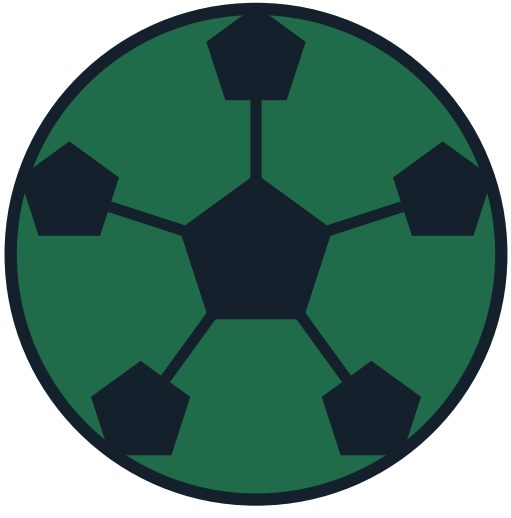
SPORT ON EARTH

Sport on Earth Books · The Ball & goal Family

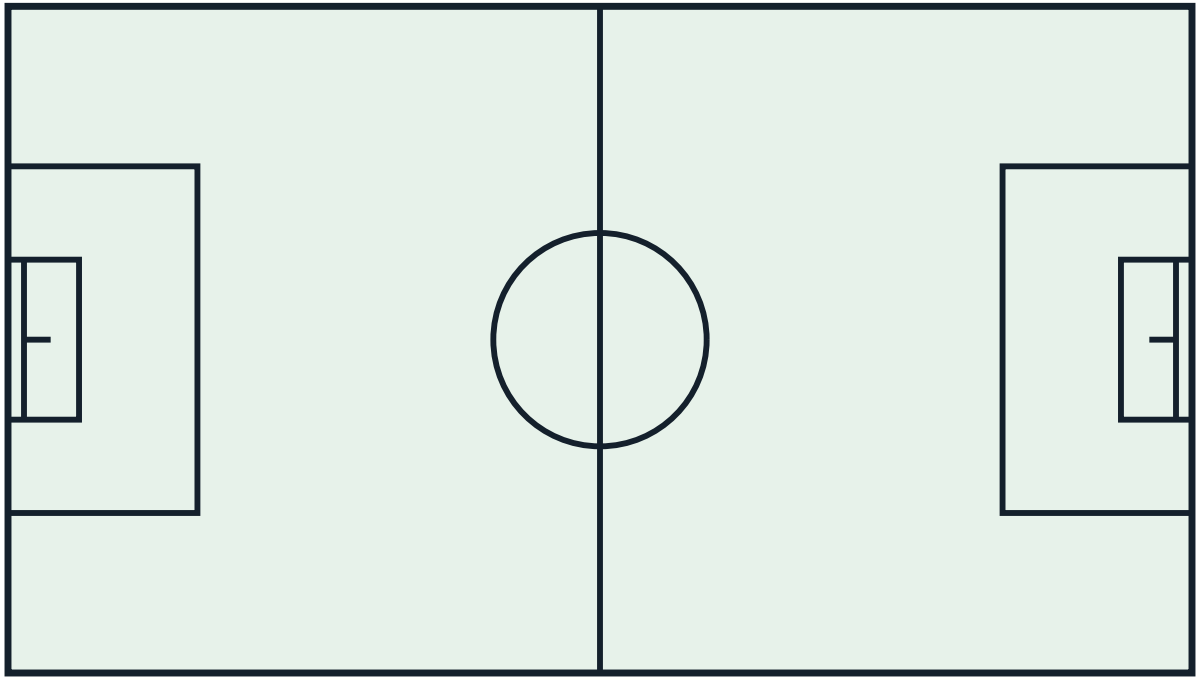
Original illustrations · No characters were copied in the making of this book

Meet Rugby Union!

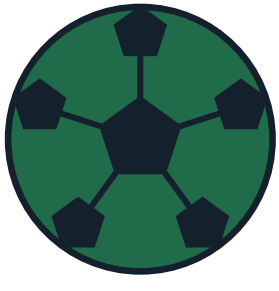
Fifteen a side, full contact, with the ball passed backwards. Score tries by grounding the ball, then convert with a kick.

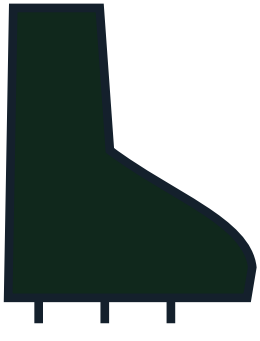


Where It Is Played



The Gear





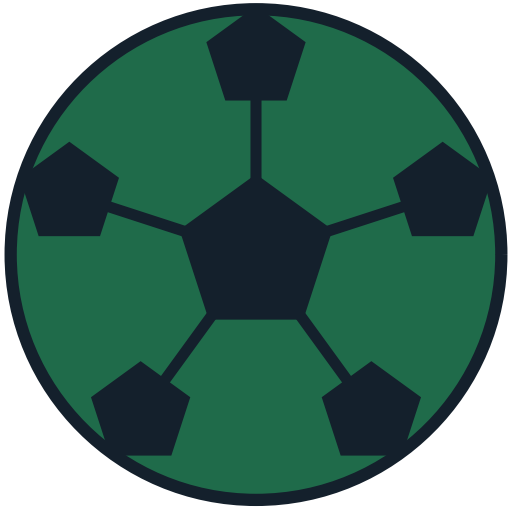


Meet the Ball & goal Family

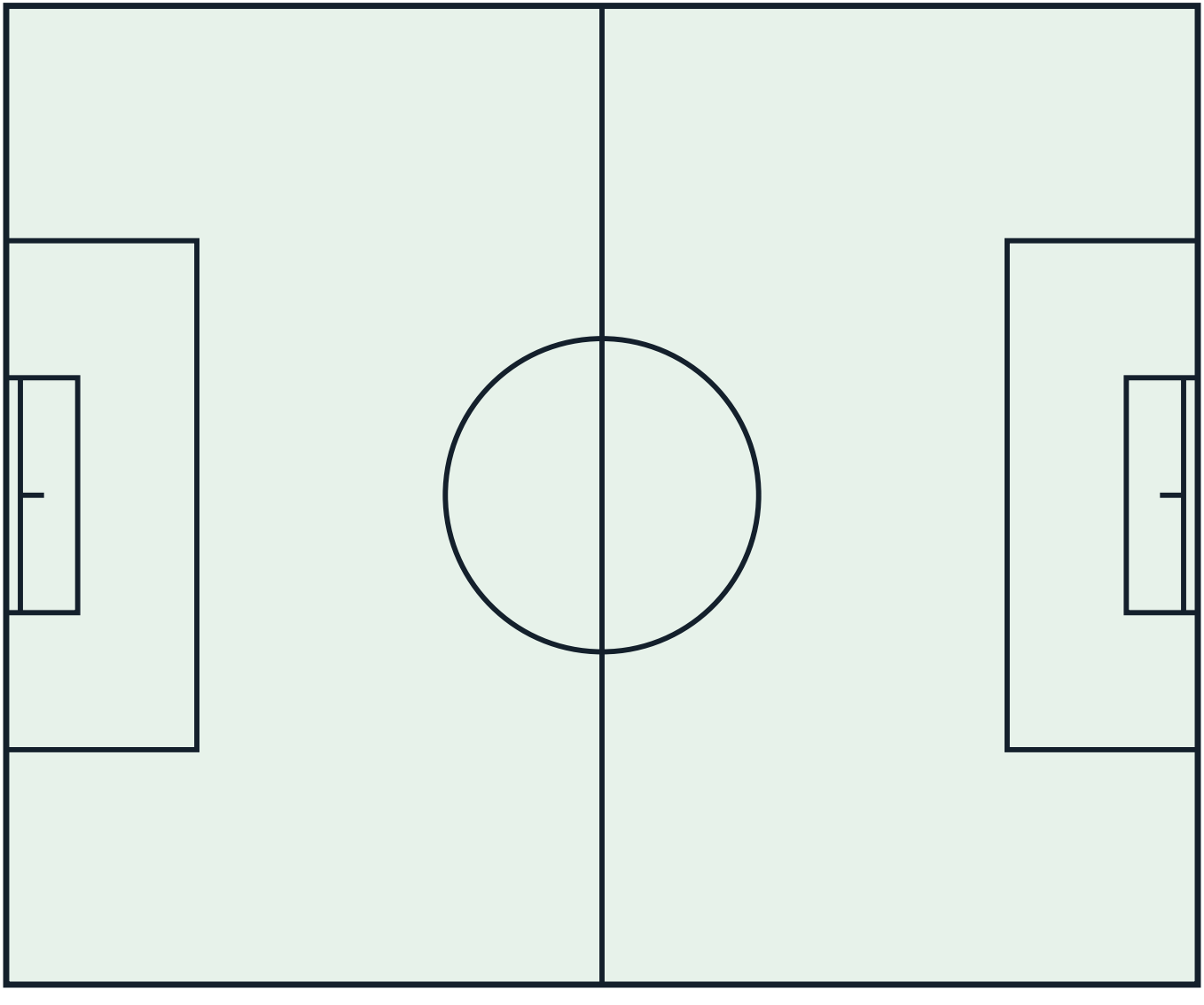
- Football (Soccer) — Two teams of 11 try to score in the opposing goal, mostly without using hands.
- Rugby League — Thirteen a side with six tackles per possession. A faster, more continuous game than union.
- American Football — Eleven a side; advance the ball 10 yards in four downs or score touchdowns 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

Rugby union's laws, kept by World Rugby, have one defining modern arc: the amateur game went professional in 1995 and then spent thirty years legislating for the collisions that bigger, fitter athletes produce.



The Playing Area



Good to Know

The Story So Far

Traced to Rugby School in the early 1800s; the RFU was founded in 1871; the first World Cup was in 1987.



Rules That Changed the Game

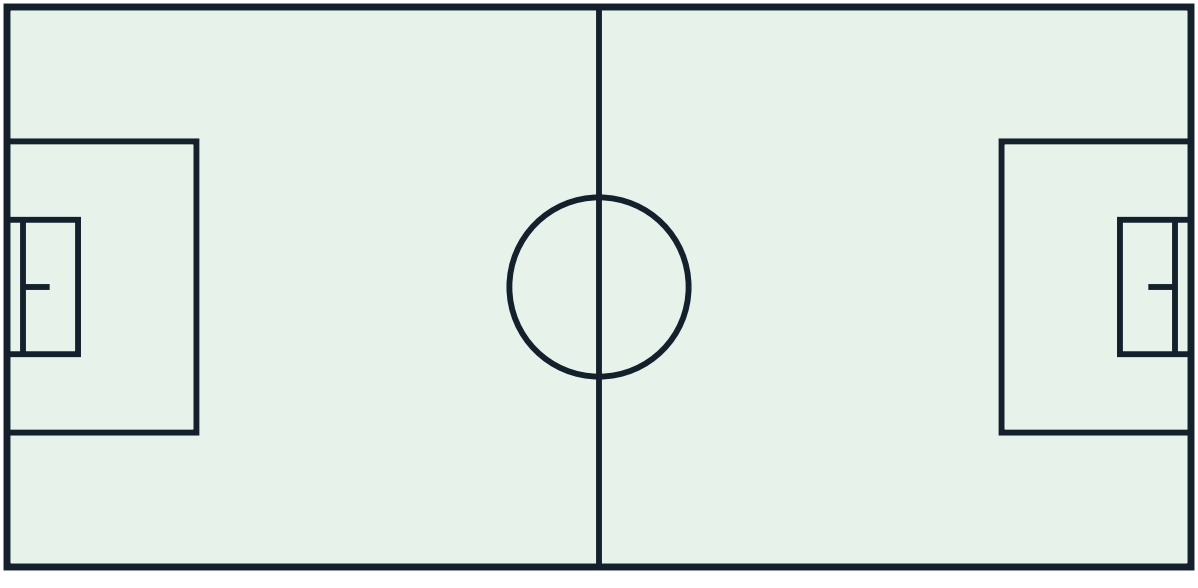
- August 1995 — Professionalism (the Paris Declaration): Everything in modern rugby — full-time athletes, the size and speed that forced the safety laws below, club-versus-country economi.
- 1992 — The Five-Point Try: Five points (plus two) is now the unquestioned core of rugby scoring; the change is credited with helping produce the open 1995 Wo.
- 2001 — The Television Match Official: The TMO is now central to elite rugby (and the model VAR was measured against); its excesses produced the modern counter-movement .
- 2013 — Crouch, Bind, Set (the Scrum Sequence): Scrums still creak and occasionally collapse, but the charge era is over; the sequence is coached from schoolboy level, and the sc.

More Game-Changing Rules

- trialled 2019/2021; permanent 2021 — The 50:22 Kick: The 50:22 is now a core attacking weapon: fly-halves hunt it, backfields defend two threats at once, and the law is generally coun.
- 2021 — The Goal-Line Drop-Out: Goal-line stands end with a kick rather than a scrum queue; teams now weigh the held-up risk differently, and the law is a fixture.

The Sport Today

Premiership, Top 14, URC, Super Rugby, plus Test rugby and the Six Nations.



At School and College

School rugby is central in the UK, South Africa, NZ, Australia, and Argentina; NCAA is smaller in the US.

Play It Near You

Club rugby, sevens, touch, and tag formats.

Through the Year

Six Nations in Feb and Mar; Rugby Championship in Aug to Oct; World Cup every 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.

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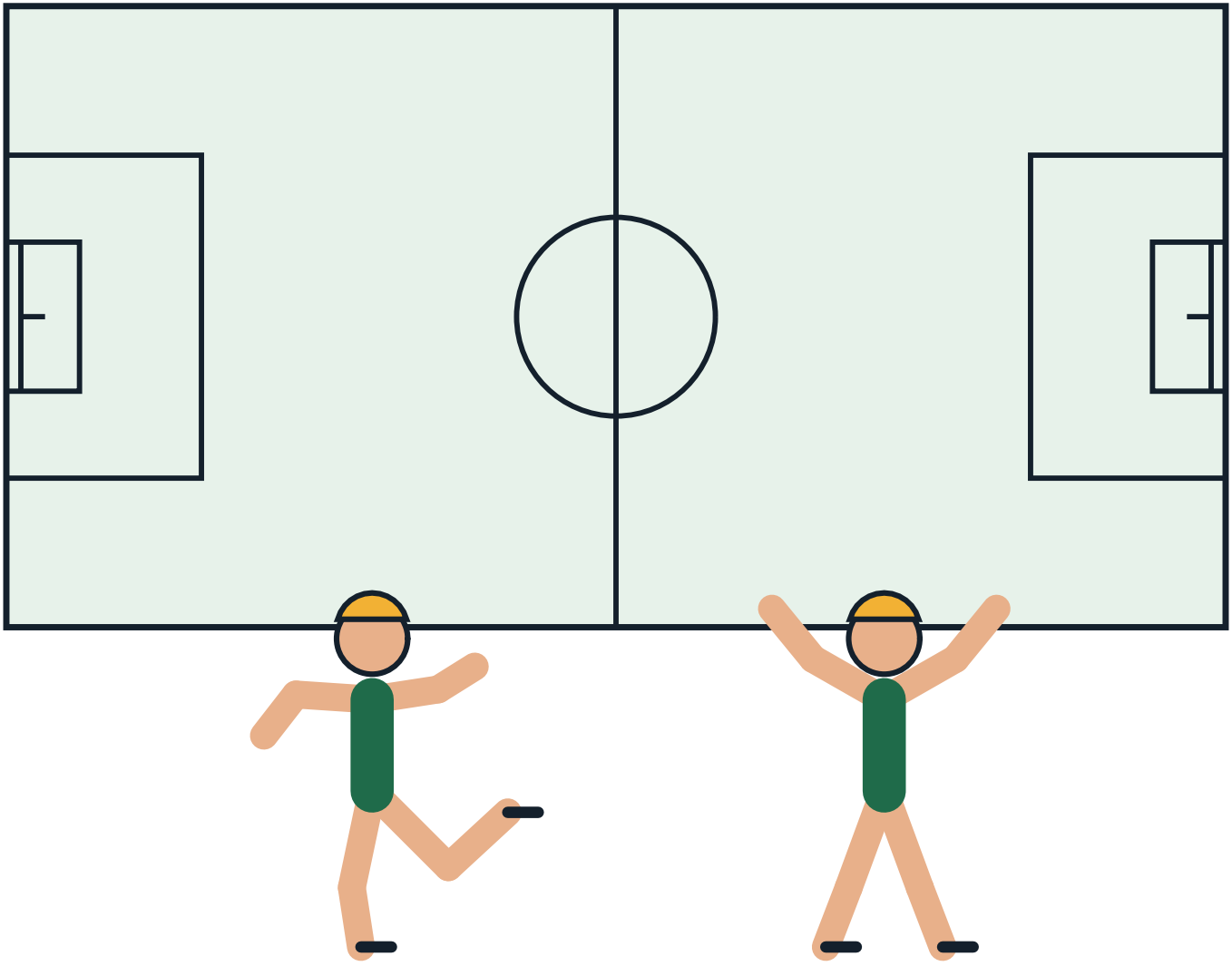
Game Day!

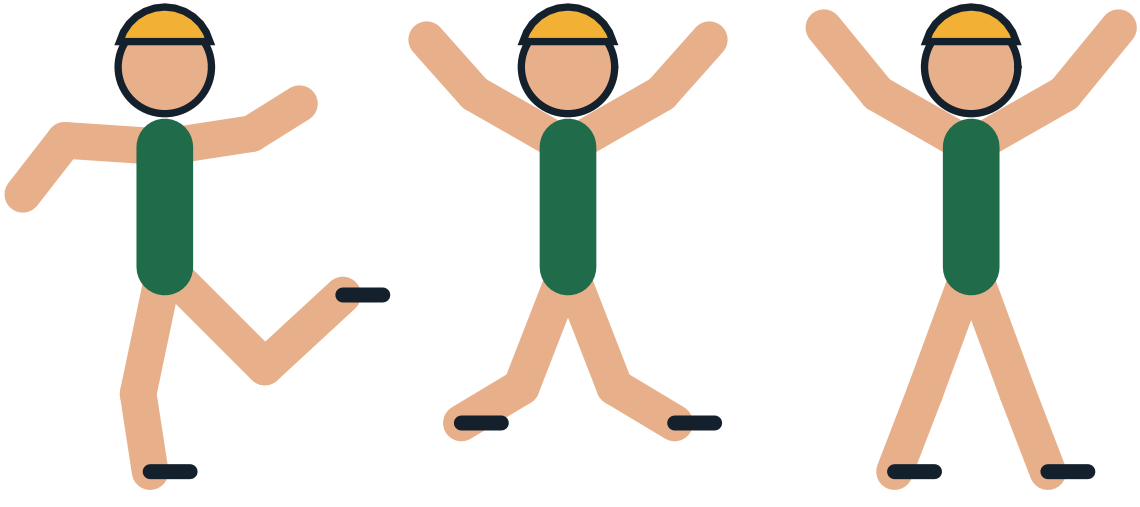


The Sport on Earth Mark

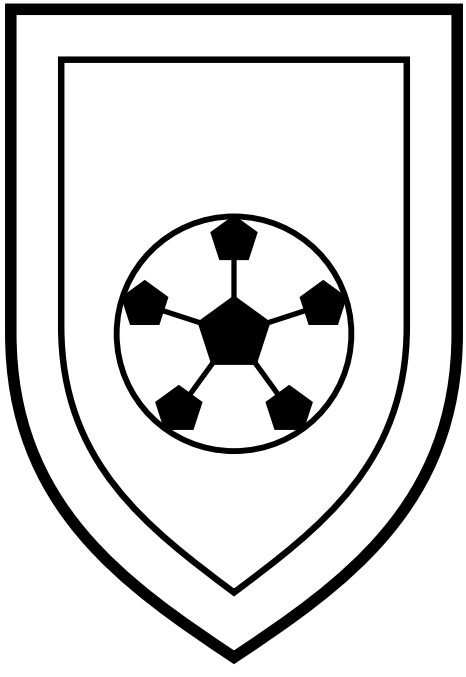
Every sport on Sport on Earth carries its own original mark, drawn for the site. Here is this sport's.



Moves of the Game



Design a Badge

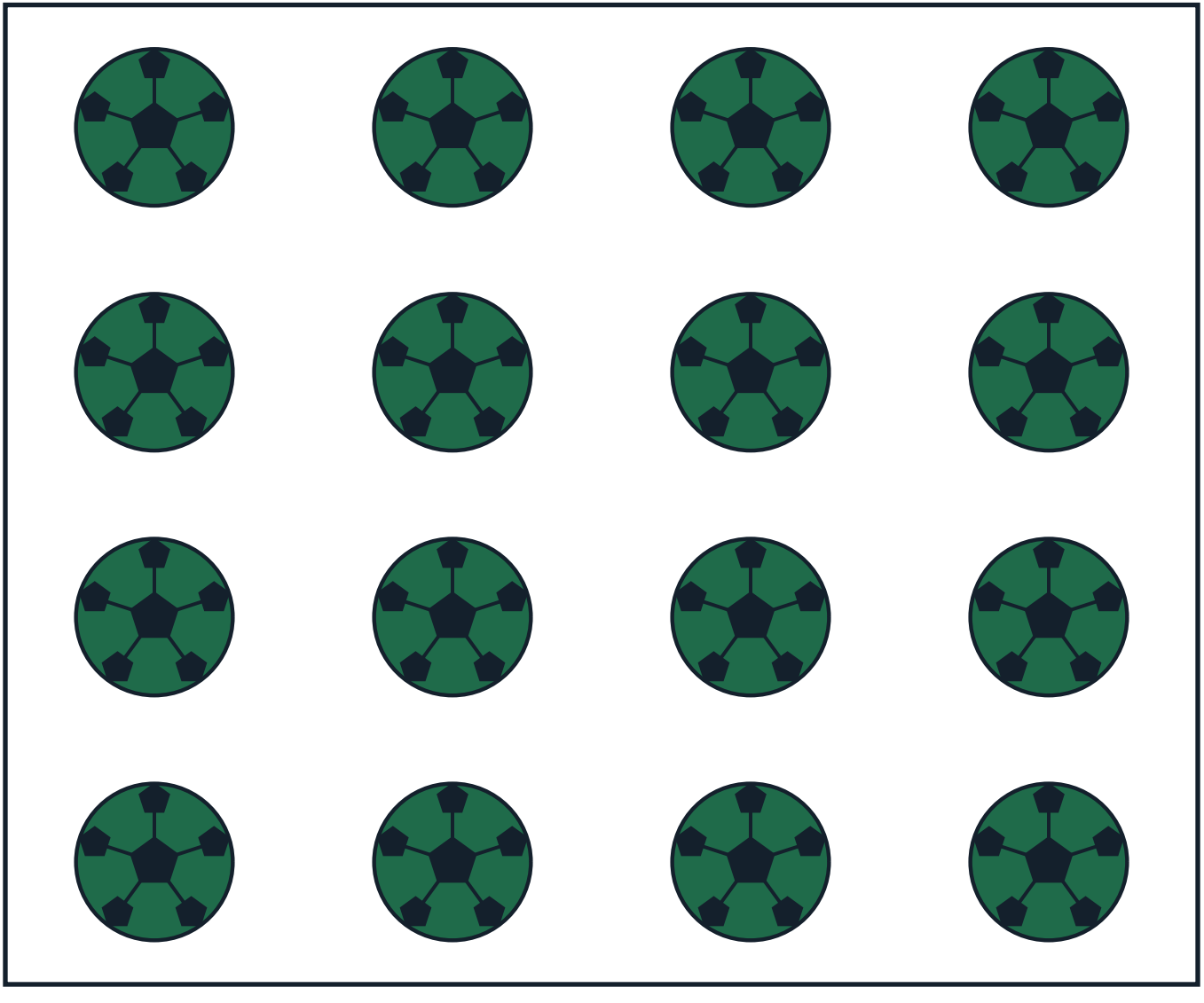


Draw and colour a badge for your own team.

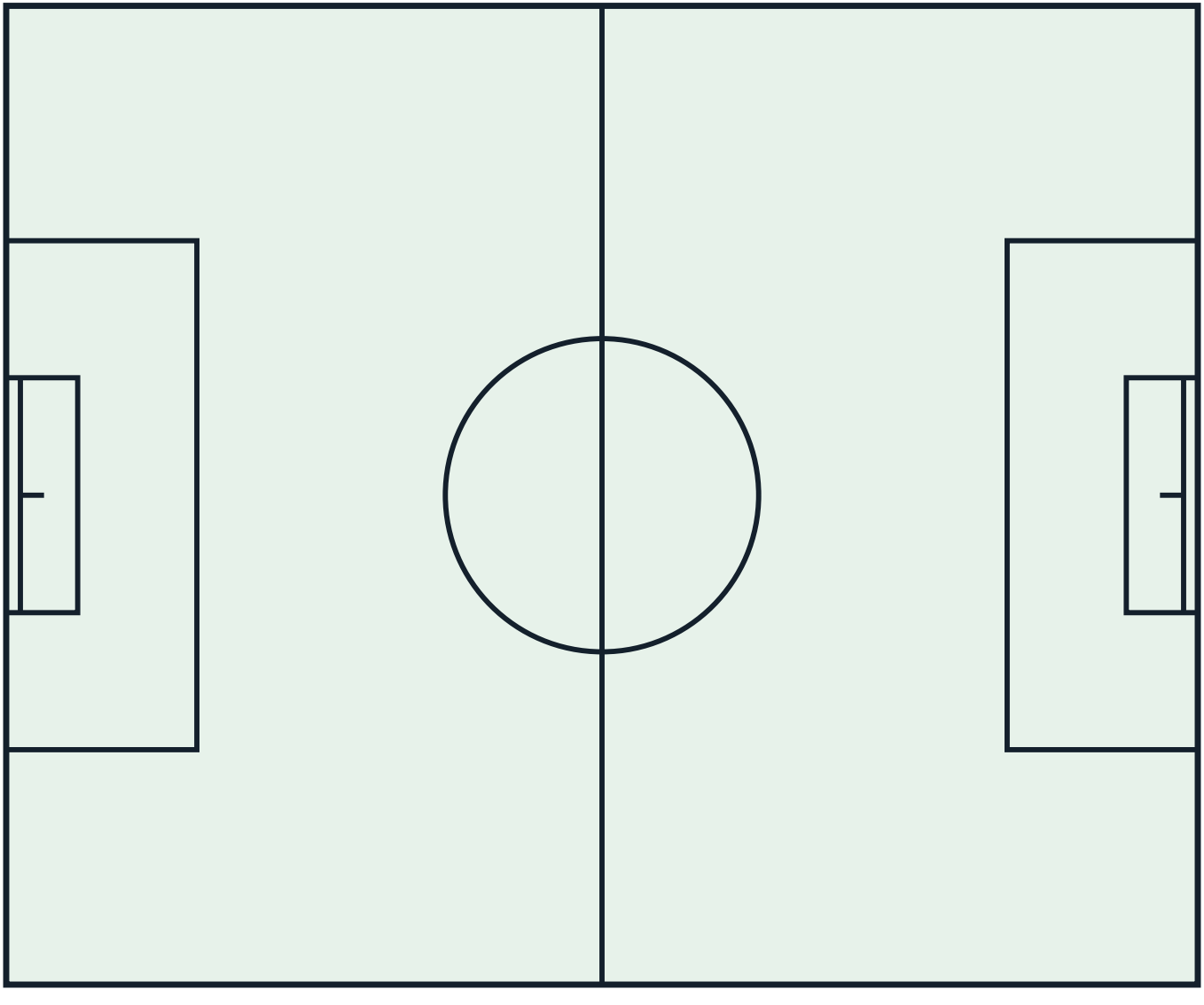
The Gear Parade



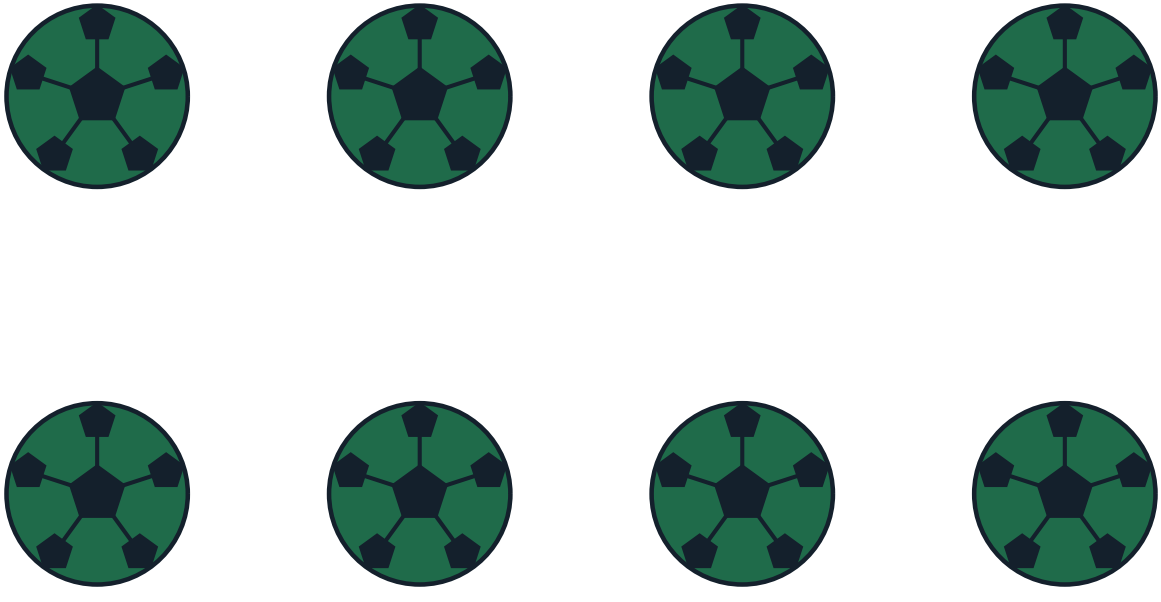
Pattern Play



The Arena From Above



Count the Balls!



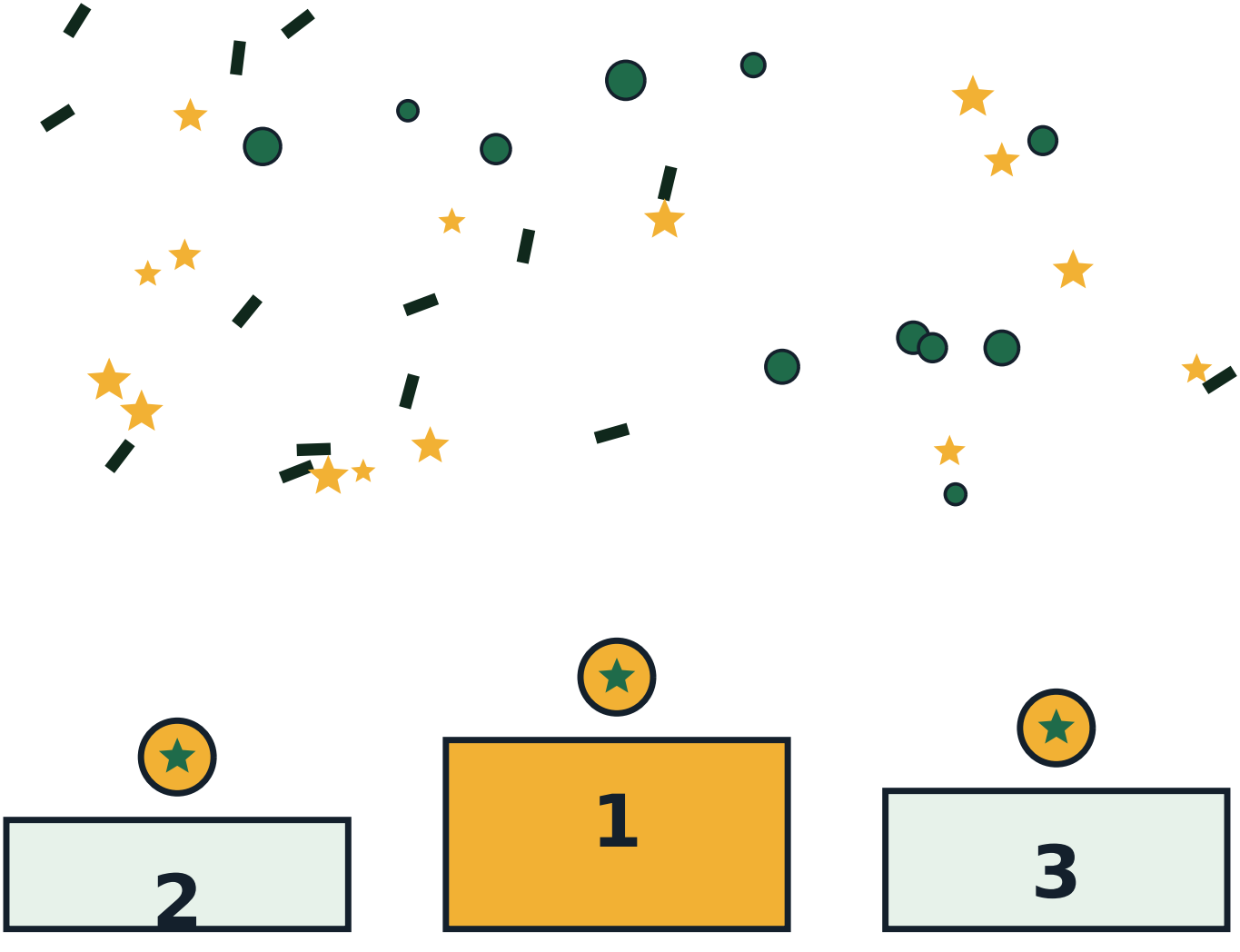
How many can you count? Write the number here: _____

My Favourite Part of Rugby Union

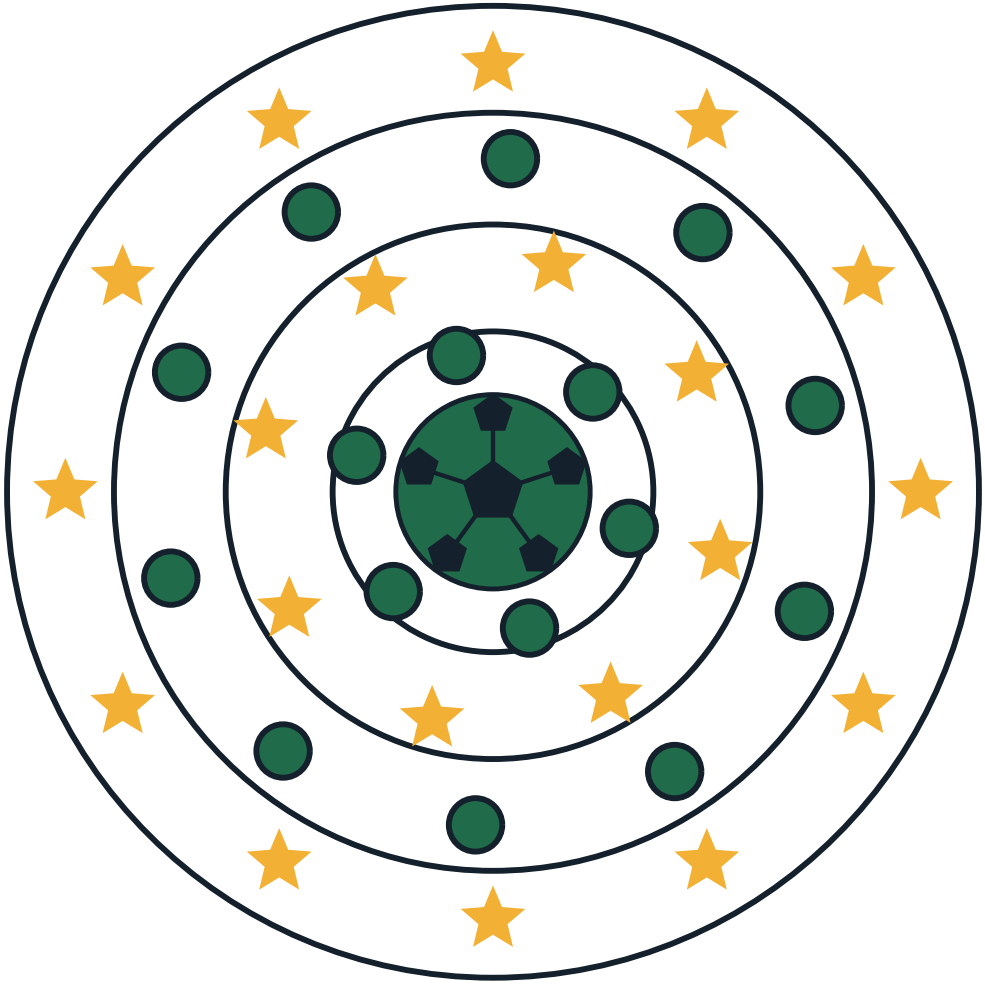
Gear Close-Up



Champions!



The Mandala of the Game



About This Book

Rule-change history: World Rugby Laws of the Game and law-change archives; the 1995 Paris declaration records; law trial documentation for the 2013 scrum sequence and the 2021 global trials (50:22, goal-line drop-out).. 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 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 Football (Soccer) Colouring Book
- The Rugby League Colouring Book

My Notes

Rugby Union

The Cartoon Book of Rugby Union — 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.

