THE CARTOON BOOK OF

SLED DOG RACING



ANIMAL

SPORT ON EARTH

Sport on Earth Books · The Animal sports Family

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

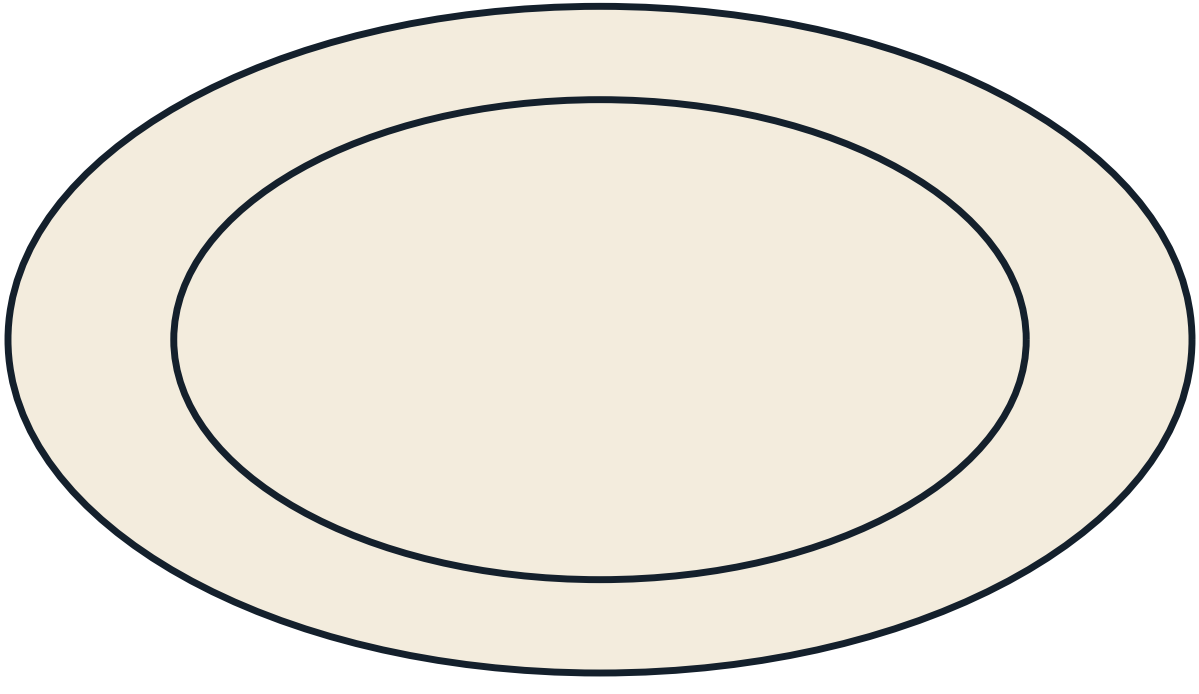
Meet Sled Dog Racing!

Endurance mushing, including the Iditarod.



Where It Is Played

The Iditarod Trail across Alaska — ceremonial start in Anchorage, restart at Willow, finish in Nome; northern and southern routes alternate by year.



The Gear

Sled (maximum three sleds in the race, no sails or wheels), dog team with harnesses and towline, mandatory survival and dog-care gear including 8 booties per dog.

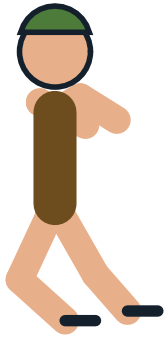






How It Starts

Learn mushing with a kennel or club on short sprint races, build a trained team, and complete the required qualifiers (750 miles including two 300-mile races) before entering the Iditarod.



How to Play

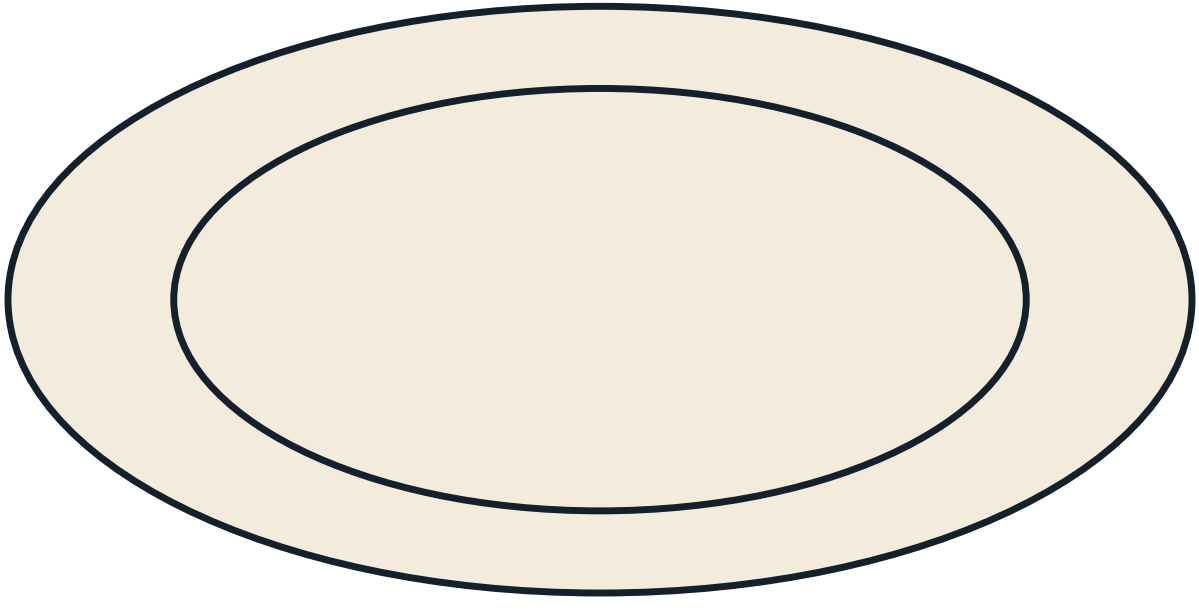
- Format: a musher drives a dog team pulling a sled over the roughly 1,000-mile Iditarod Trail from Anchorage / Willow to Nome, racing continuously through checkpoints in all weather.
- Winning: the object is to cover the race in the shortest time under the team's own power and without aid from others; the finish is determined by the nose of the first dog to cross the finish line.
- Team size: a musher may start with a maximum of 16 dogs and must have at least 12 dogs on the line to start (12 dogs for the ceremonial start); at least 5 dogs must be on the towline at the finish, and no dogs may be added after the restart.
- A musher must personally sign in at each checkpoint before continuing, and must present the veterinarian notebook at each checkpoint.

More of the Game

- Mandatory stops: one 24-hour stop at an official checkpoint (plus the starting differential), one 8-hour stop on the Yukon River, and one 8-hour stop at White Mountain — none of the mandatory stops may be combined.
- Only one musher is permitted per team and that musher must complete the entire race; no planned outside physical assistance is allowed — all care and feeding of the dogs is done only by the team's musher.
- Mandatory items must be carried at all times from the restart: cold-weather sleeping bag (minimum 5 lb), axe, snowshoes, cooker and pot able to boil 3 gallons of water with fuel, eight booties for each dog, a harness for each dog and an insulated coat for each dog.
- Passing: when a team approaches within 50 feet of another team it has immediate right of way on demand; the musher ahead must stop and hold the team for up to one minute, and the passed team must wait at least 15 minutes before demanding the trail again.

The Shape of a Match

One musher and a team of 12-16 dogs race about 1,000 miles of Alaskan trail through checkpoints with three mandatory rest stops; shortest elapsed time to Nome wins.



More of the Animal sports Family

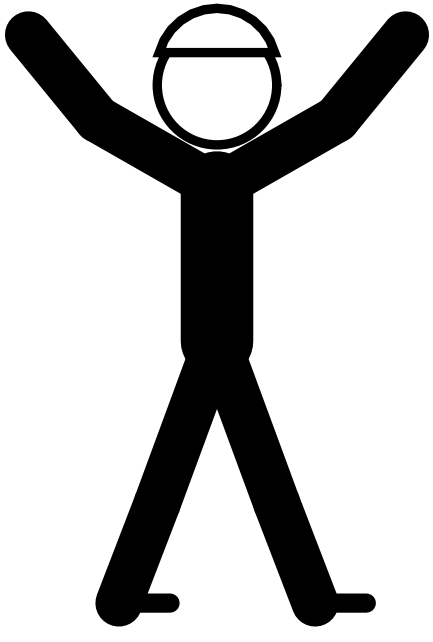
- Horse Racing — Thoroughbred and harness racing, with the Triple Crown and Breeders' Cup.
- Rodeo and Bull Riding — PBR and rodeo circuits of riding events.
- Polo — Mounted team game; Argentina is the leading nation.
- Polocrosse — Polo and lacrosse hybrid on horseback.
- Cycle Polo — Polo played on bicycles.
- Dog Agility — Dogs run obstacle courses with handlers.

A Note on the Rules

Sled dog racing is governed by the IFSS for championship racing and by its famous races' own codes (the Iditarod's rules — mandatory gear, dog-care and rest provisions tightened across decades of welfare scrutiny — being the most consequential, and amended by edition rather than by one canonical date). No single dated change is carried for sled dog racing.

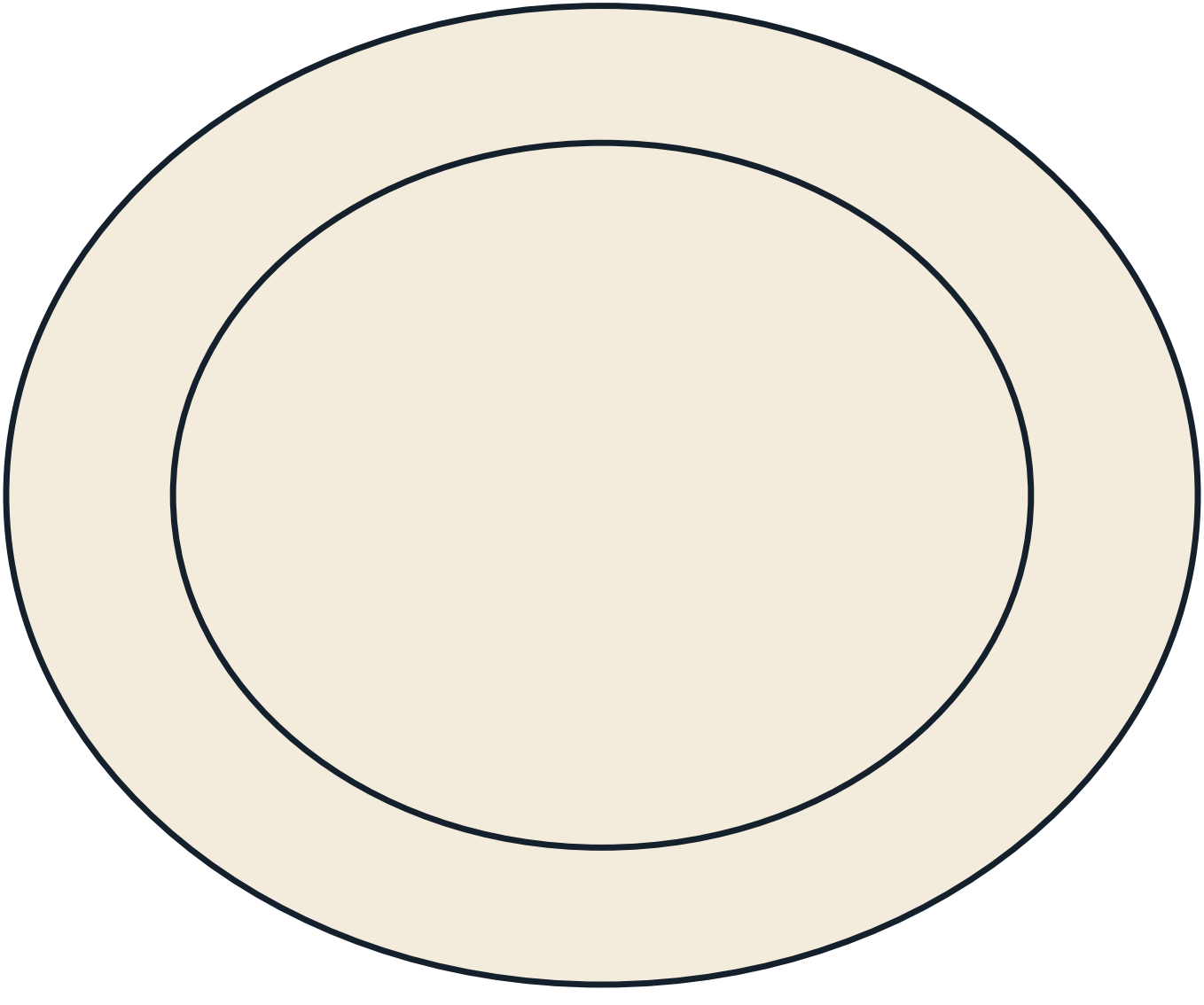


Colour the Action

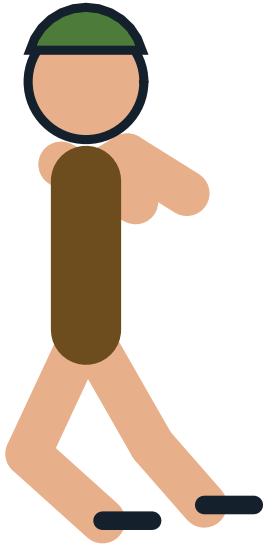


Psst — this page is a colouring page!

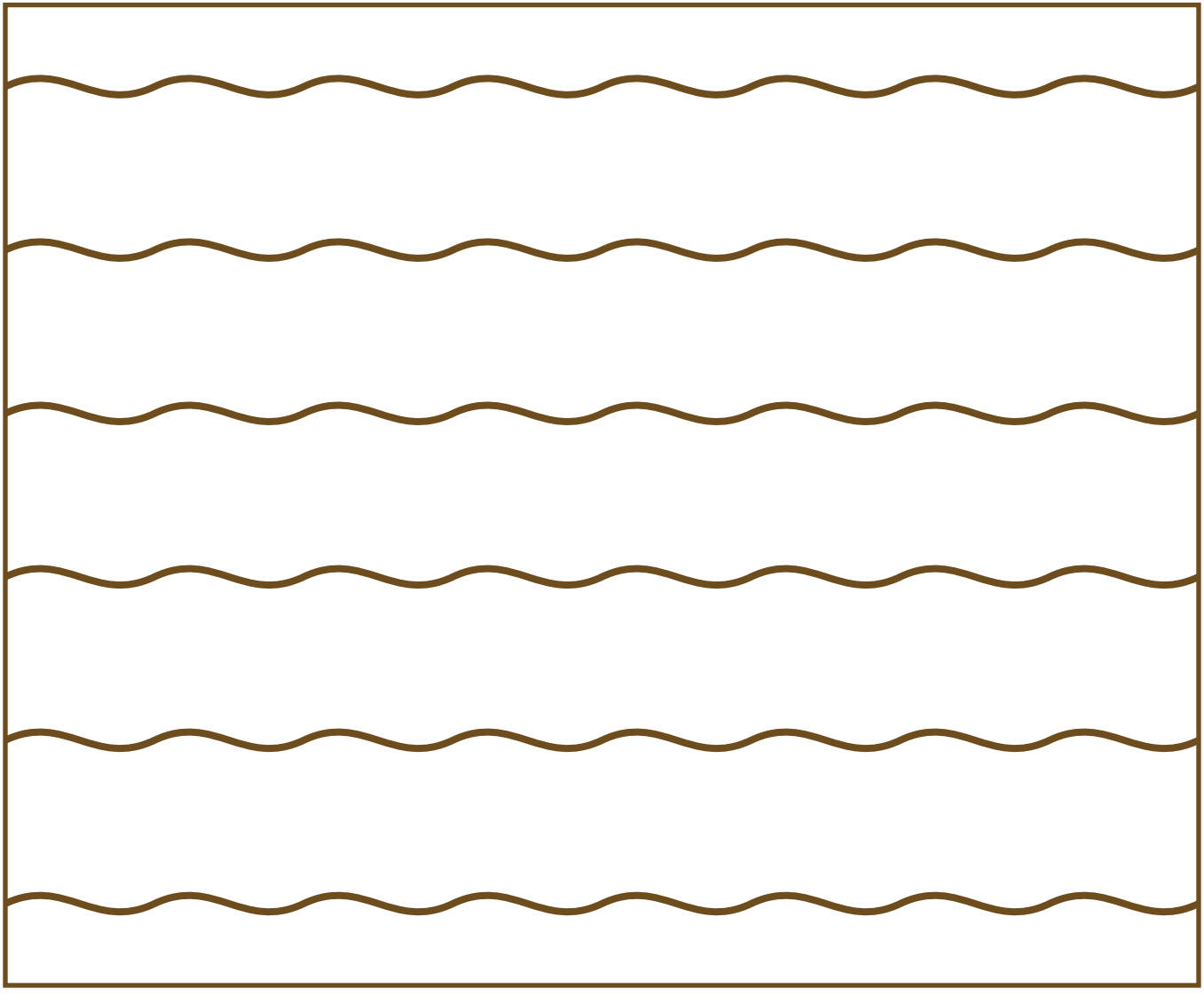
The Sport Today



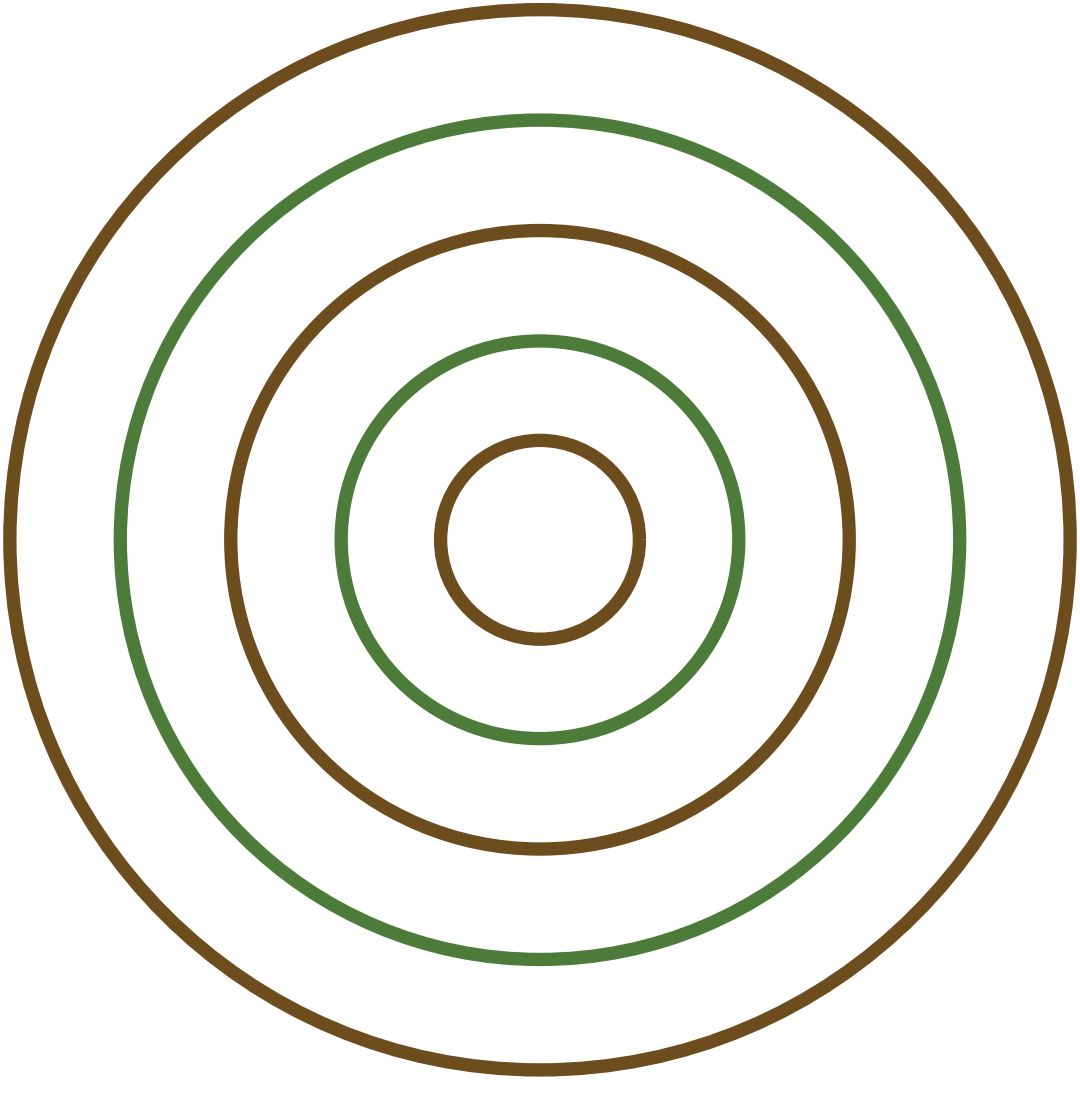
At School and College



Play It Near You



Through the Year



The Animal sports 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.

- Horse Racing — Thoroughbred and harness racing, with the Triple Crown and Breeders' Cup.
- Rodeo and Bull Riding — PBR and rodeo circuits of riding events.
- Polo — Mounted team game; Argentina is the leading nation.
- Polocrosse — Polo and lacrosse hybrid on horseback.
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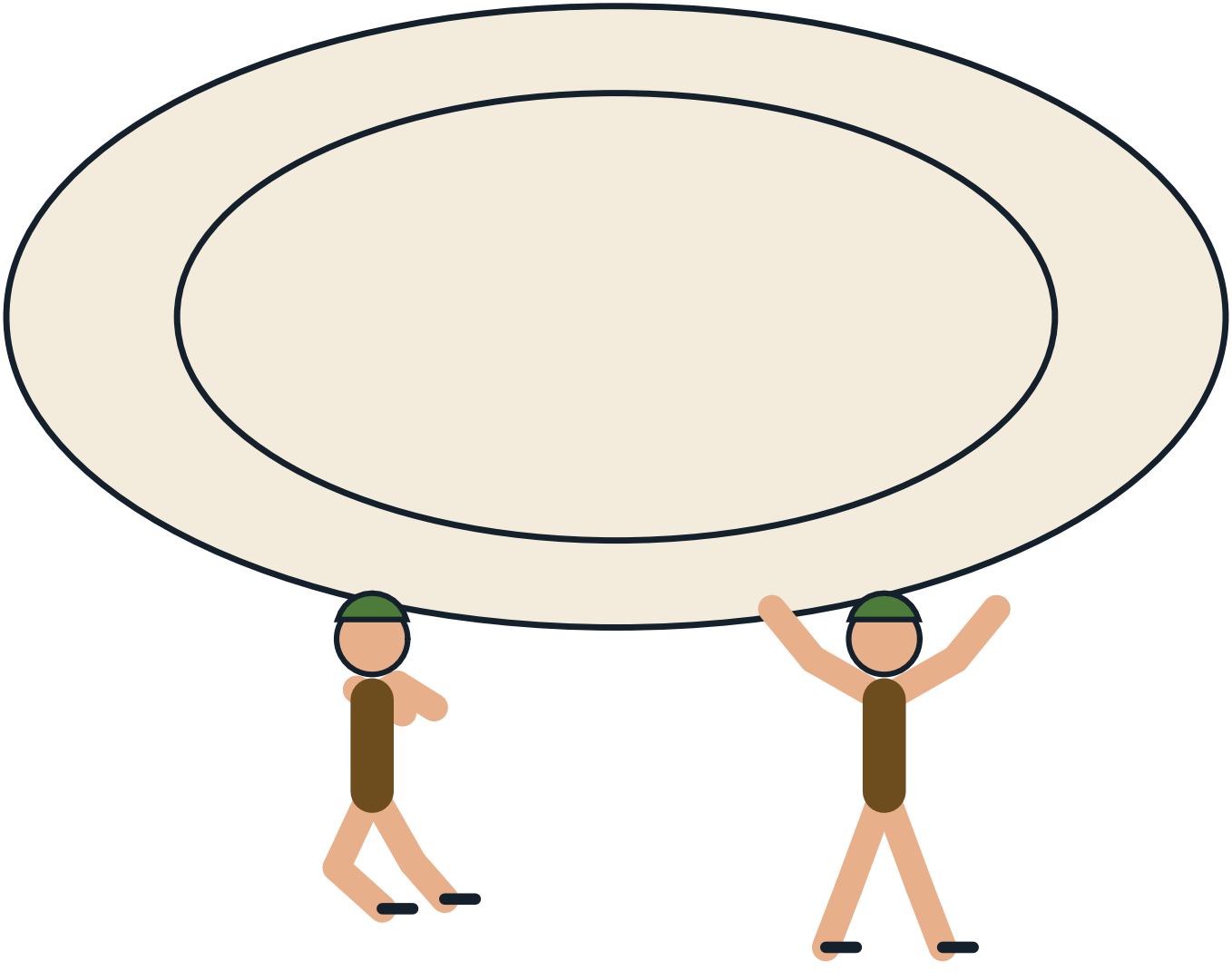
Game Day!



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.



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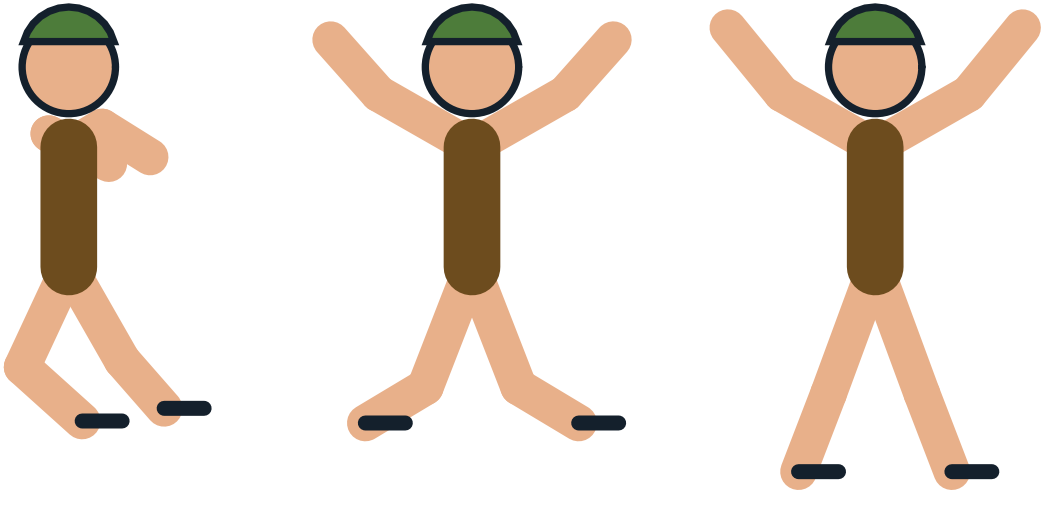
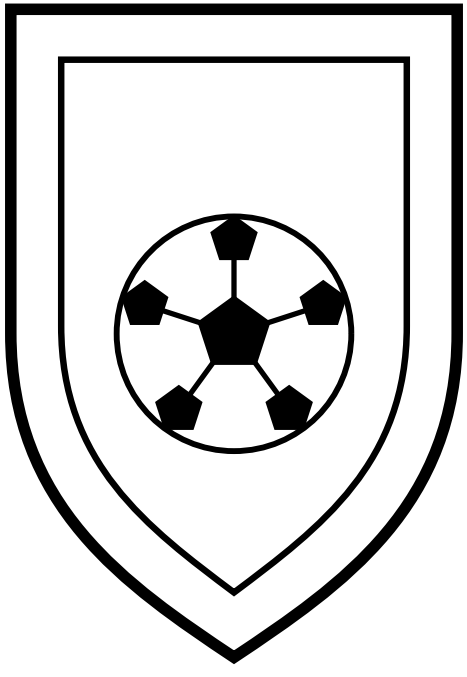
Moves of the Game



Design a Badge

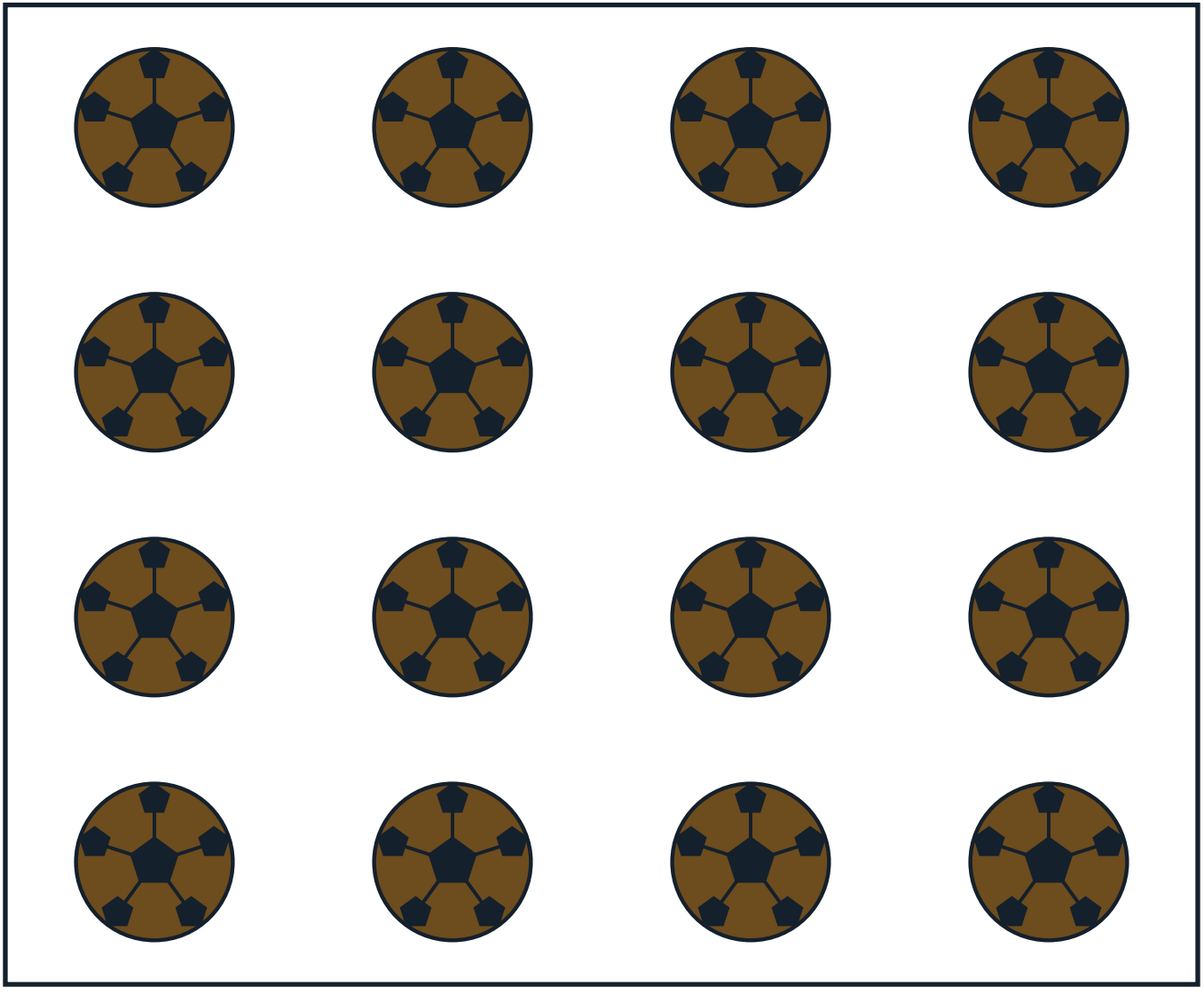


Draw and colour a badge for your own team.

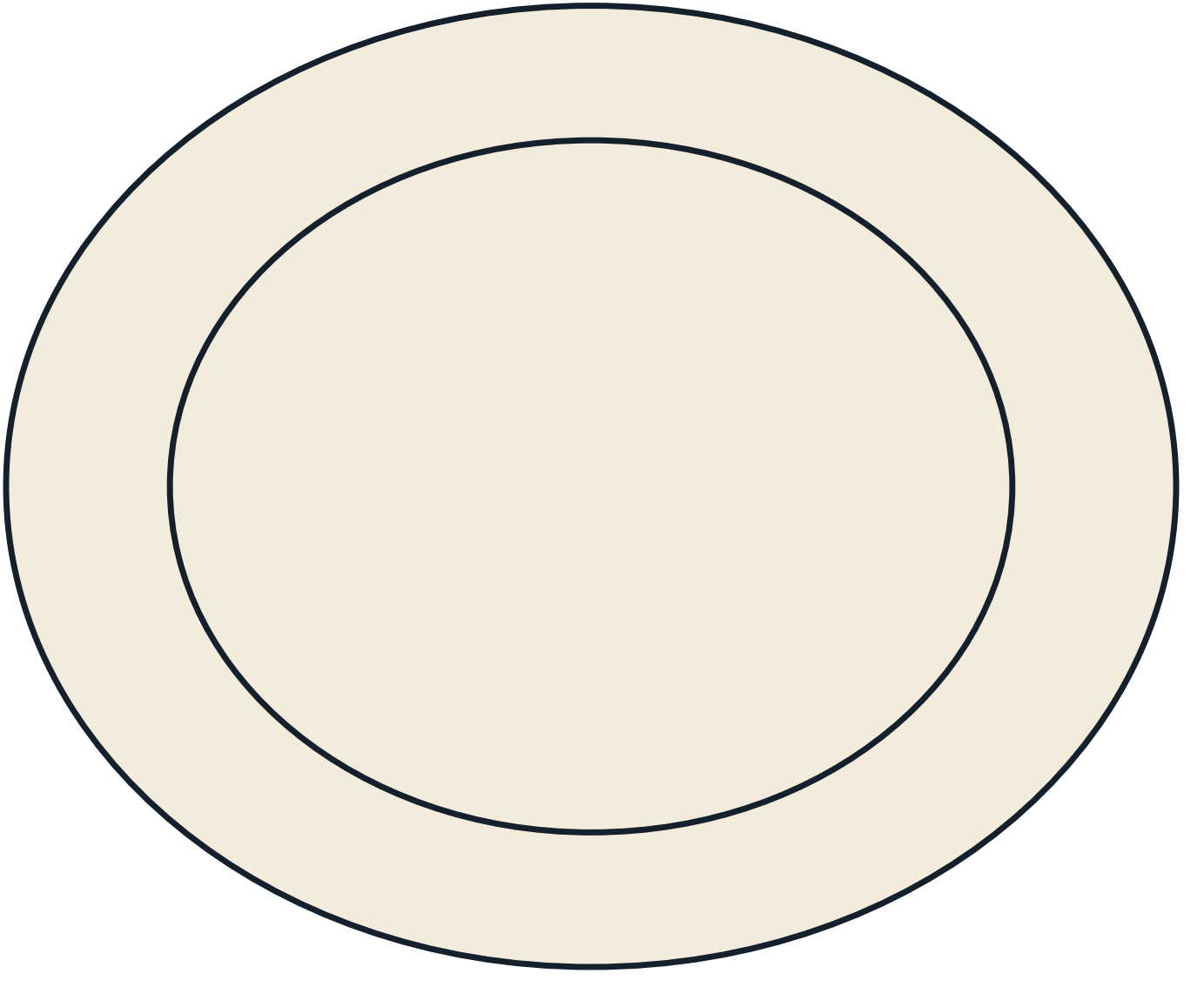
The Gear Parade



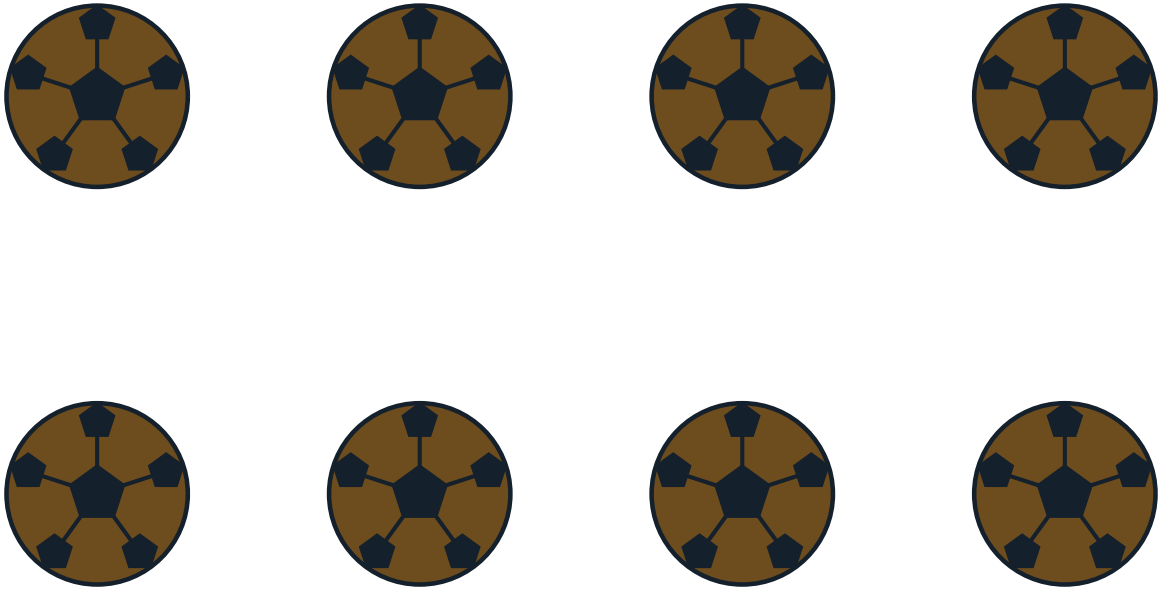
Pattern Play



The Arena From Above



Count the Balls!



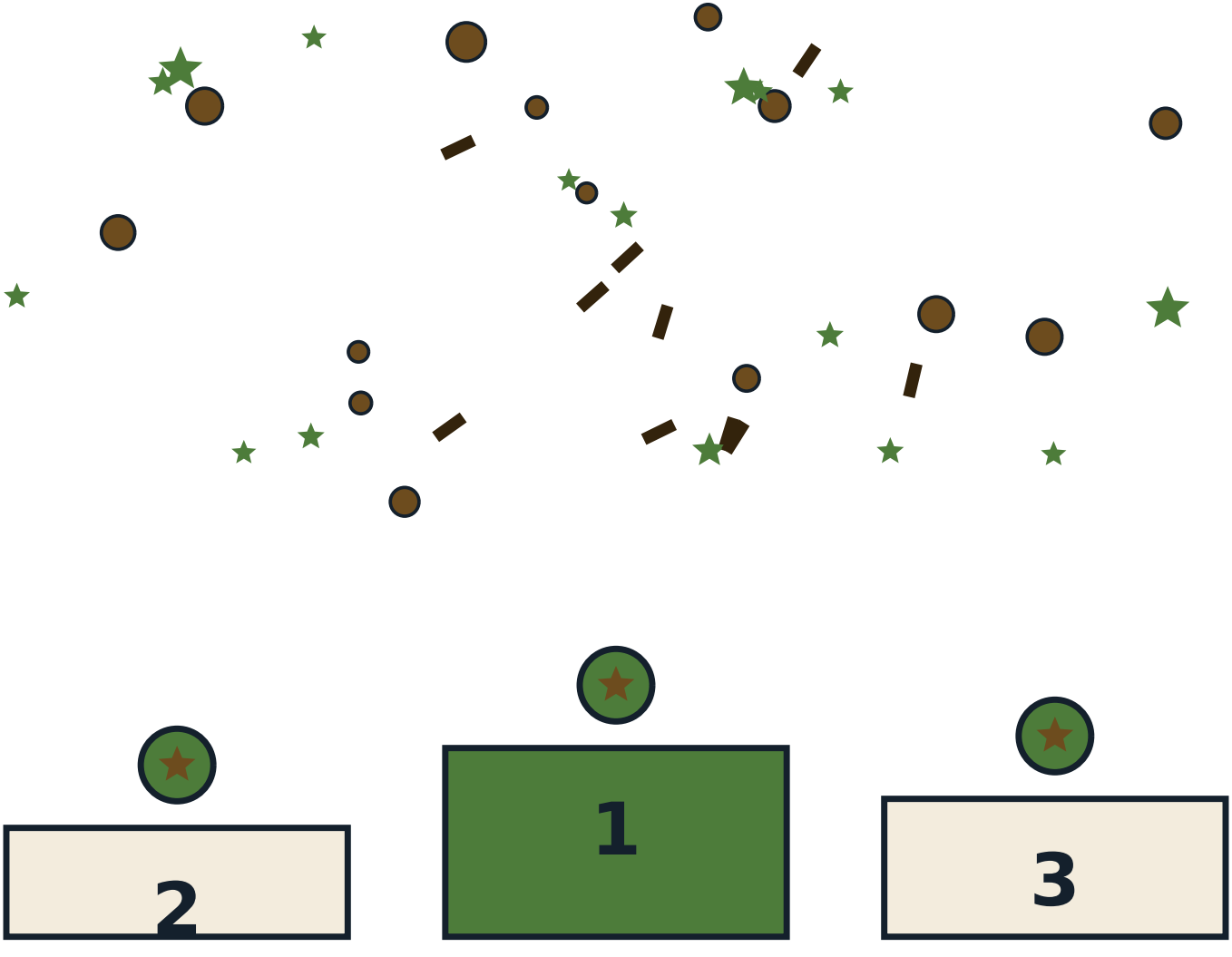
How many can you count? Write the number here: _____

My Favourite Part of Sled Dog Racing

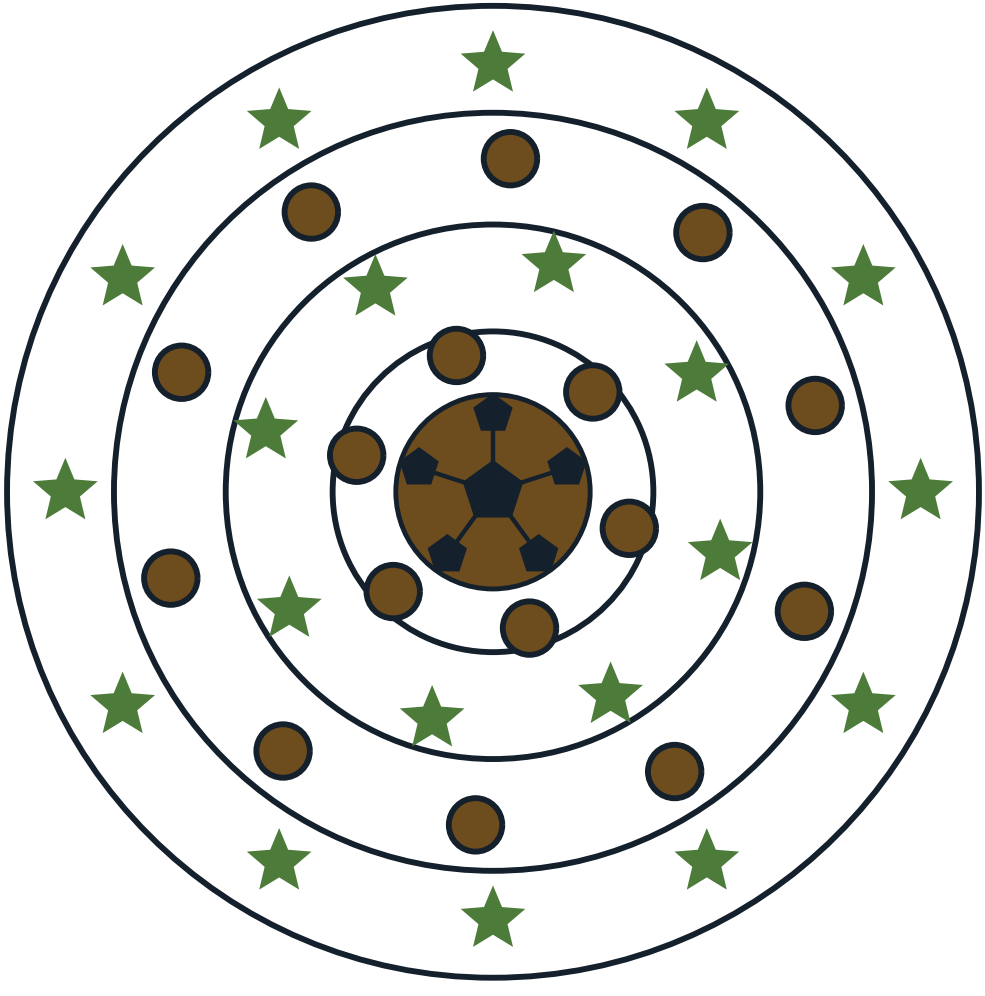
Gear Close-Up



Champions!



The Mandala of the Game



About This Book

Governing body: Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC) for the Iditarod; international sprint / distance racing is governed by the International Federation of Sleddog Sports (IFSS). Laws edition the site's rules file follows: Iditarod Trail International Sled Dog Race Official Rules 2027. 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 Horse Racing
- The Cartoon Book of Rodeo and Bull Riding
- The Cartoon Book of Polo
- The Cartoon Book of Polocrosse
- The Cartoon Book of Cycle Polo
- The Cartoon Book of Dog Agility
- The Horse Racing Colouring Book
- The Rodeo and Bull Riding Colouring Book

My Notes

Sled Dog Racing

The Cartoon Book of Sled Dog Racing — 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.

