THE CARTOON BOOK OF

PELOTA AND JAI ALAI



RACKET

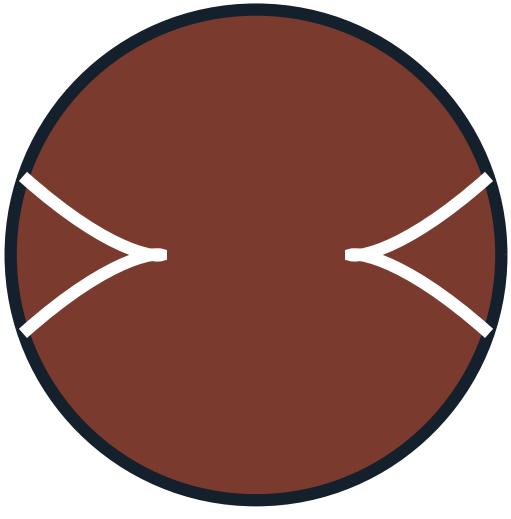
SPORT ON EARTH

Sport on Earth Books · The Traditional & regional Family

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

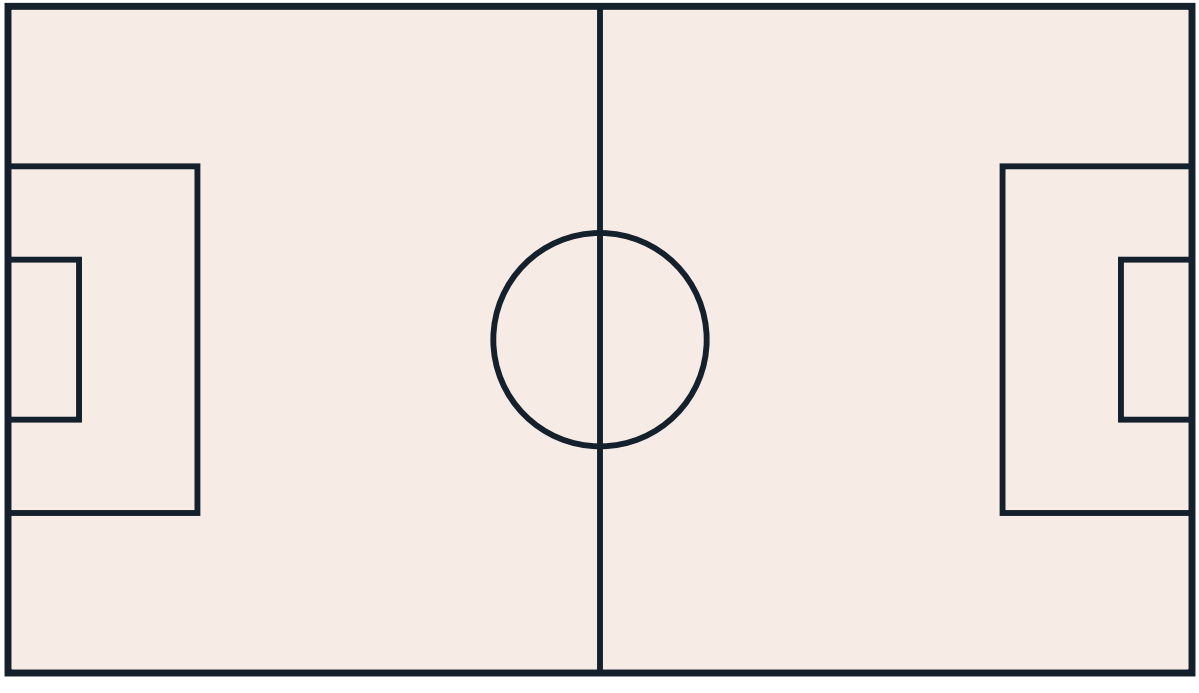
Meet Pelota and Jai Alai!

Basque ball games played off a wall.



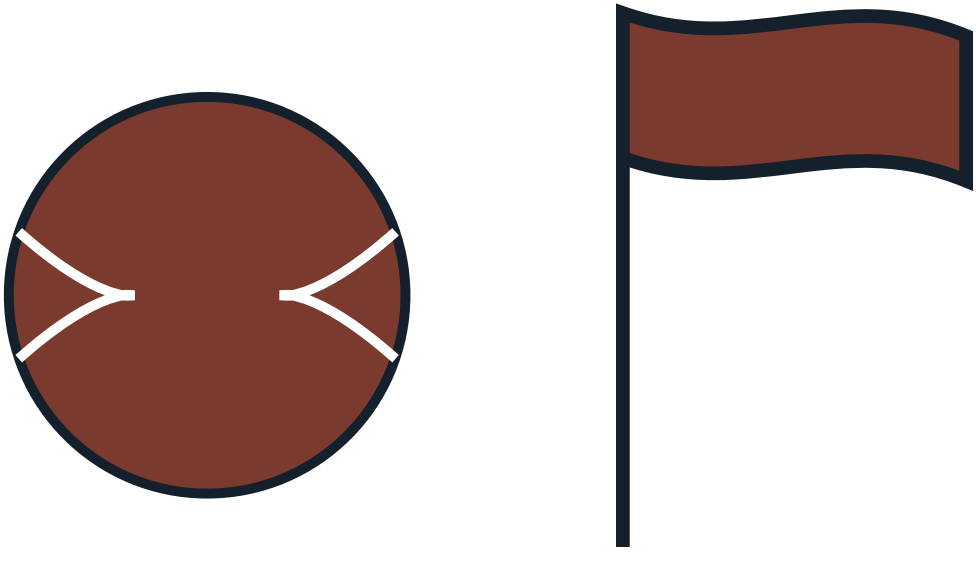
Where It Is Played

Fronton courts: the 36-metre cancha is 36 m long, 10 m wide and 10 m high with a countercourt 3.5 m wide; the jai alai cancha is 54 m long, 10 m wide and 10 m high, likewise with a 3.5 m countercourt.



The Gear

A pelota (hard ball) and, by specialty, bare or protected hands, a wooden paleta or pala, or the curved wicker cesta of cesta punta/jai alai.



How It Starts

Start with hand pelota on a 36-metre fronton or a local plaza wall: serve the ball against the frontis and return each rebound before a second bounce beats you.



How to Play

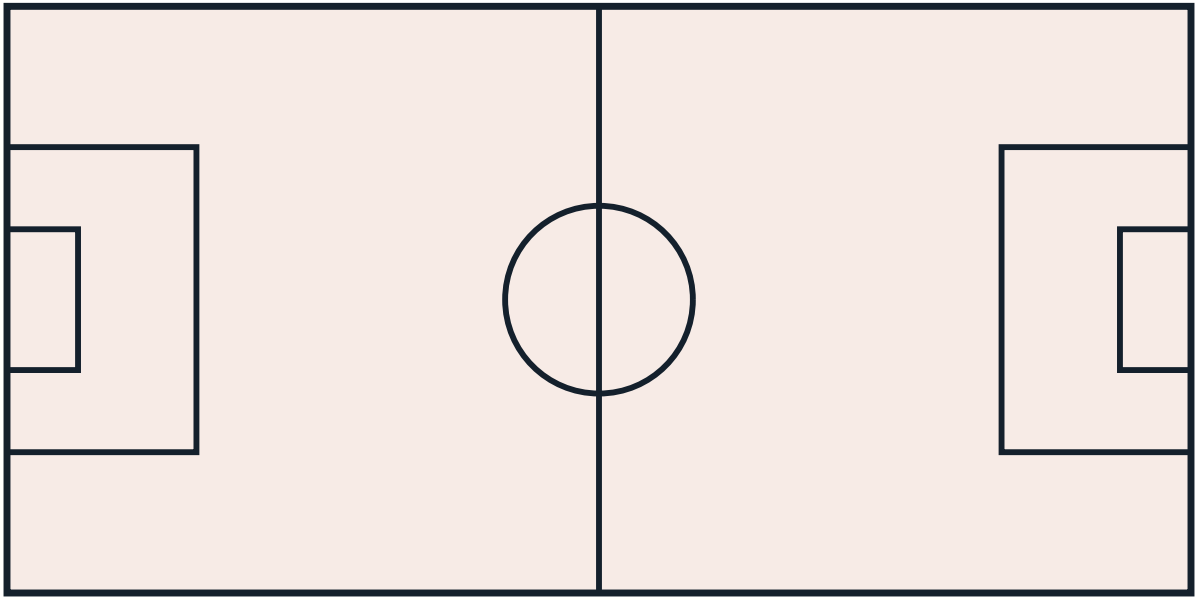
- Basque pelota is a family of court games played on facilities called frontón, trinquete and plaza: the ball is struck against the frontal wall, the frontis, and returned from the court and the countercourt (contracancha) back to the frontis.
- On the 36-metre fronton the specialties include hand pelota (mano), instrument pelota (paleta and pala) and Cesta Punta, played as singles and doubles specialties under the FIPV regulations.
- Hand pelota on the 36-metre fronton is scored as two 10-point games, with a third game of 5 points as the playoff if needed.
- Instrument pelota on the 36-metre fronton is scored as two 15-point games, with a third game of 10 points as the playoff if needed.

More of the Game

- Cesta Punta on the 36-metre fronton is scored as two games of 15 points, with a third tiebreak game of 10 points.
- Jai alai is the cesta punta specialty played on the 54-metre fronton, where the FIPV championship frontons are the 54-metre courts for Cesta Punta/Jai Alai; there the scoring is two 15-point games with a third game of 10 points as the playoff.
- On the FIPV frontons all playing distances are measured from the Frontis, and the court frames (cuadros) are 3.5 m long on the 36-metre fronton and 4 m long on the 54-metre fronton.

The Shape of a Match

Singles and doubles wall-ball: players alternately strike the pelota against the frontis, by hand (mano), with a bat (paleta/pala) or, in cesta punta/jai alai, with the long wicker cesta, in games to 10 or 15 points depending on the specialty.



More of the Traditional & regional Family

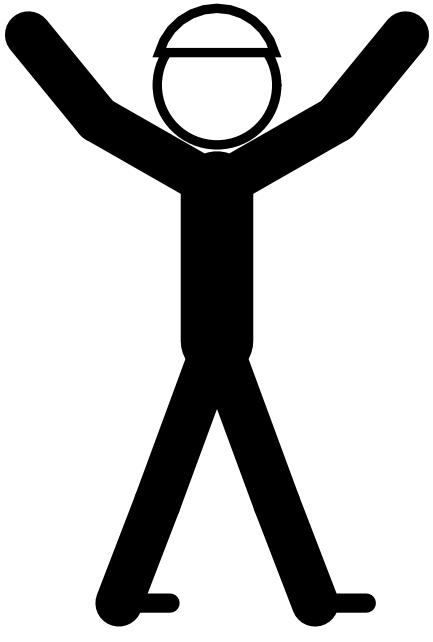
- Kabaddi — A raider tries to tag defenders and return to their own half while holding one breath, chanting.
- Sepak Takraw — Southeast Asian kick volleyball with a rattan ball.
- Gaelic Handball — Irish wall handball played with gloved hands.
- Calcio Storico — Florentine mix of rugby, wrestling and boxing in a sand pit.
- Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling — English race chasing a cheese wheel down a hill.
- Eton Wall Game — Eton College's slow wall-side football variant.

A Note on the Rules

Pelota vasca and its American descendant jai alai are governed by the FIPV and national federations under codes (bare hand, pala, and the wicker cesta) that are regional heritage forms; jai alai's modern history is dominated by the collapse of its US pari-mutuel fronton economy rather than by law changes. No major documented rule change is carried for pelota and jai alai.

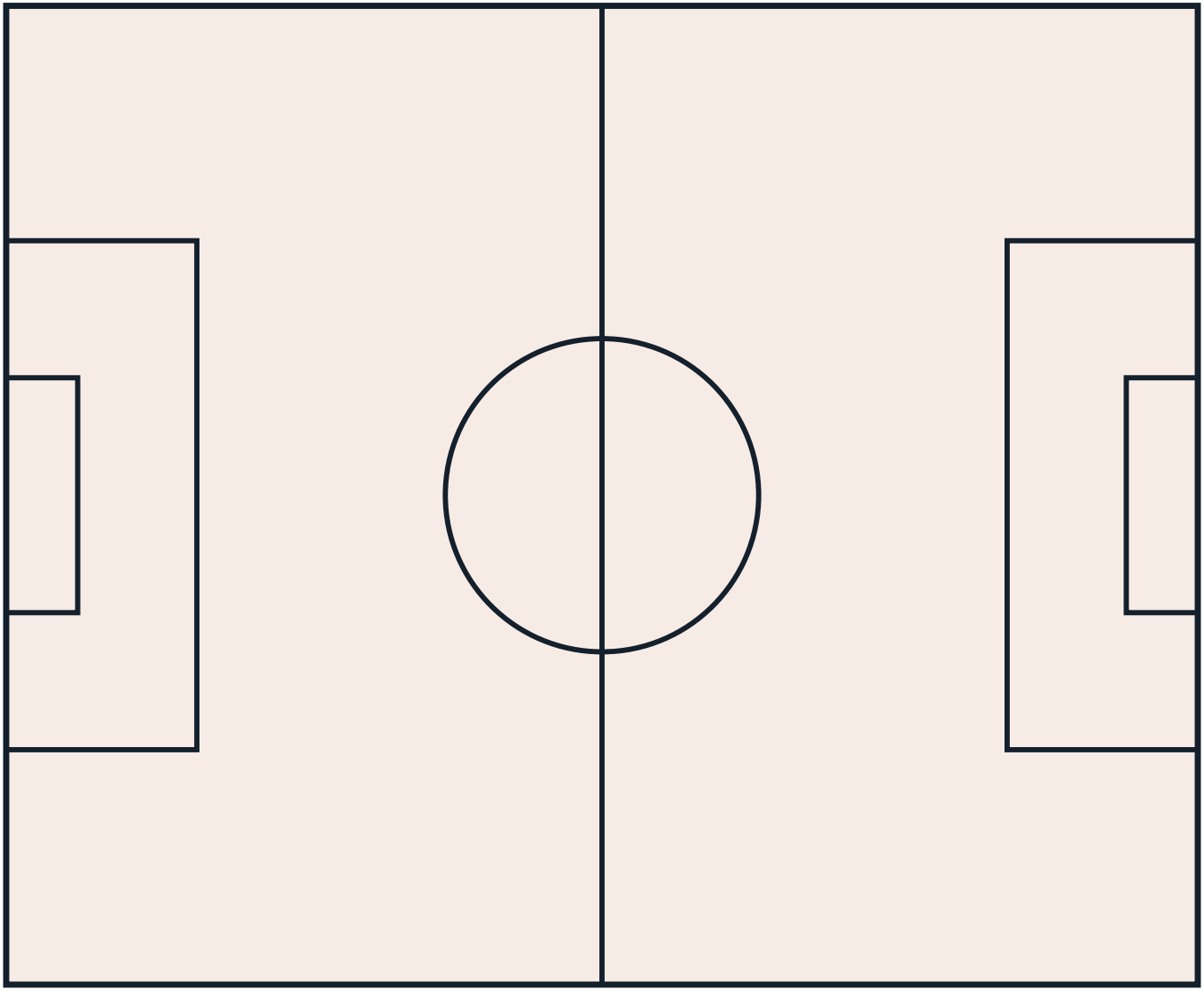


Colour the Action



Psst — this page is a colouring page!

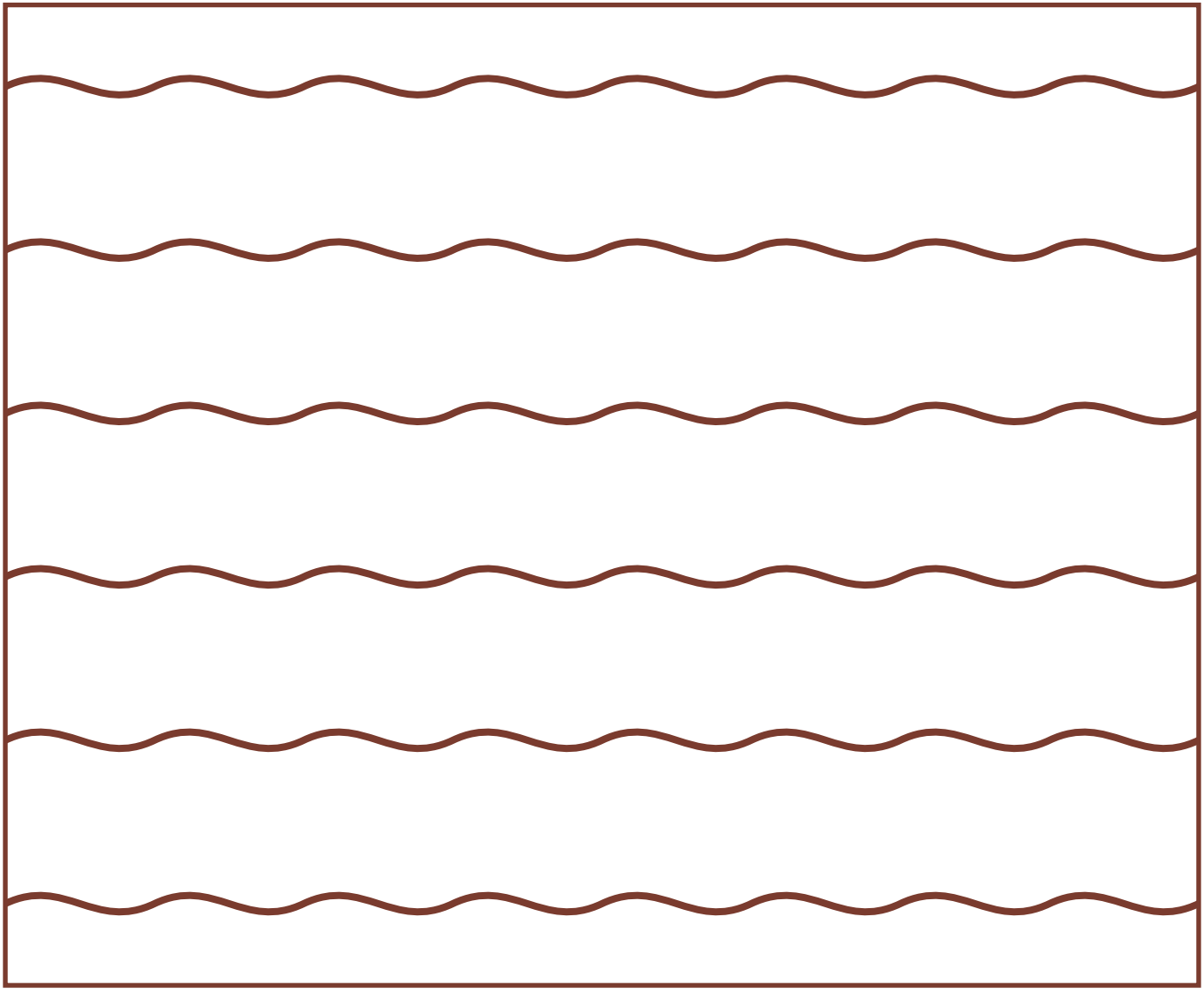
The Sport Today



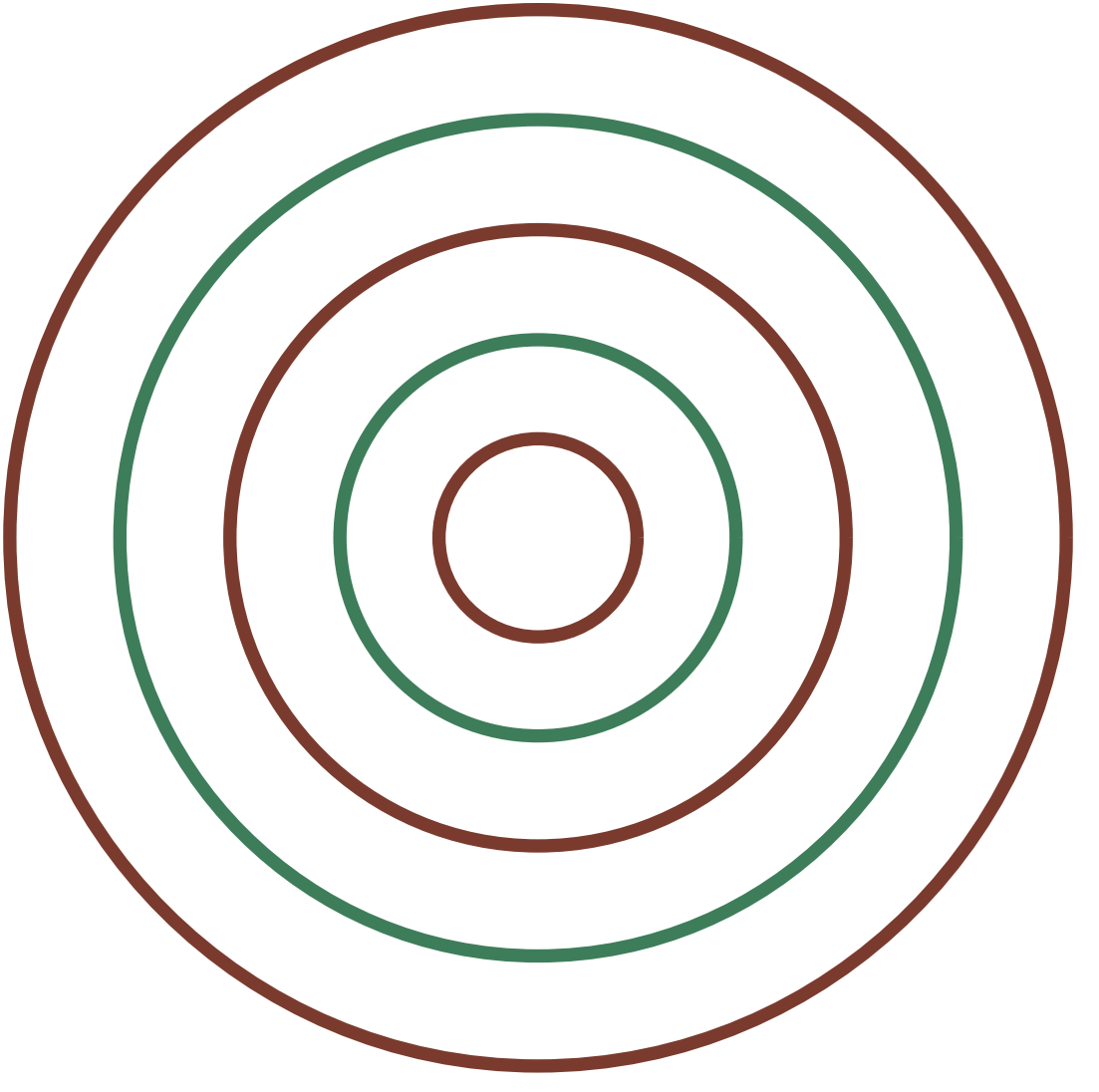
At School and College



Play It Near You



Through the Year

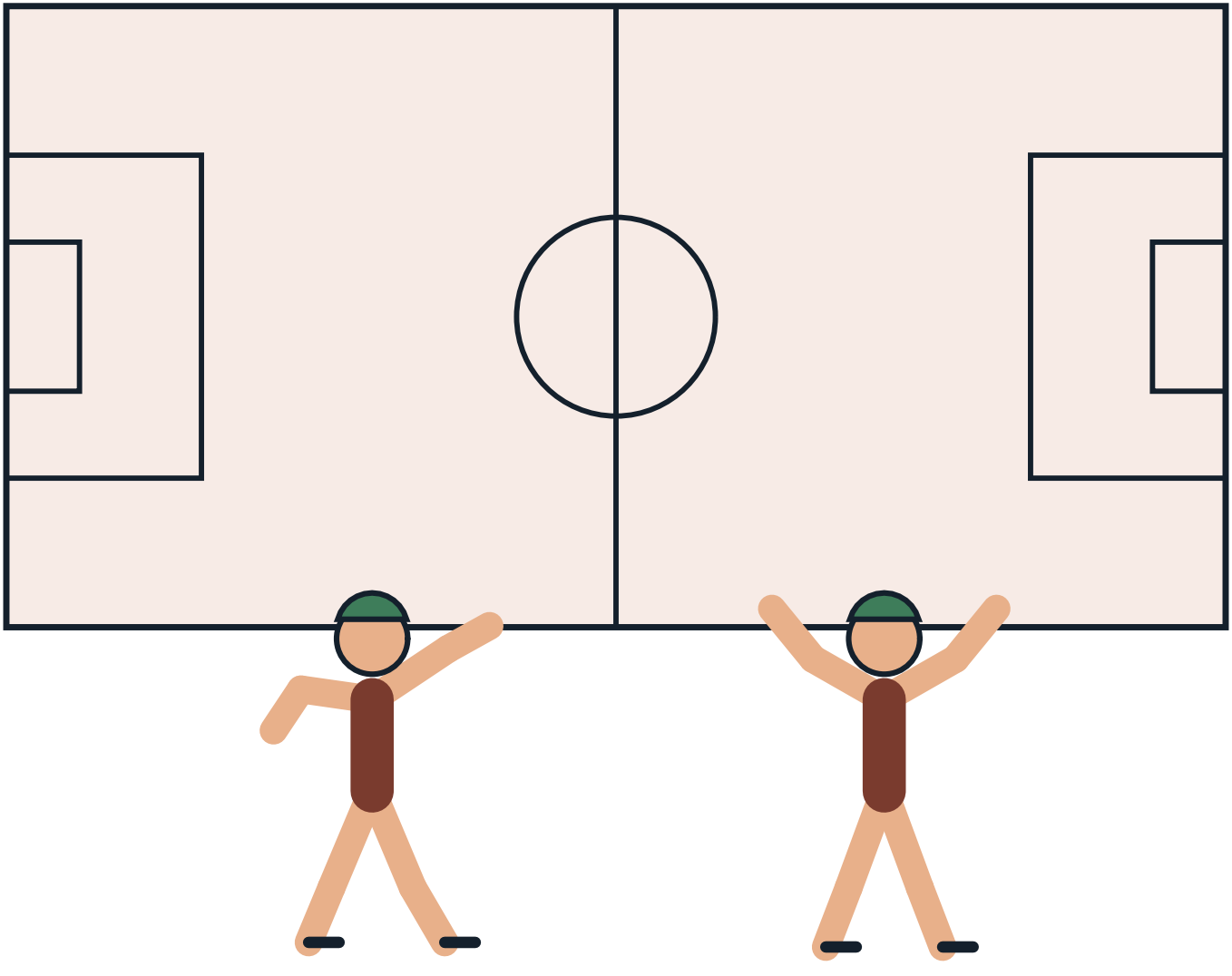


The Traditional & regional Family

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.

- Kabaddi — A raider tries to tag defenders and return to their own half while holding one breath, chanting.
- Sepak Takraw — Southeast Asian kick volleyball with a rattan ball.
- Gaelic Handball — Irish wall handball played with gloved hands.
- Calcio Storico — Florentine mix of rugby, wrestling and boxing in a sand pit.
- Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling — English race chasing a cheese wheel down a hill.

Game Day!

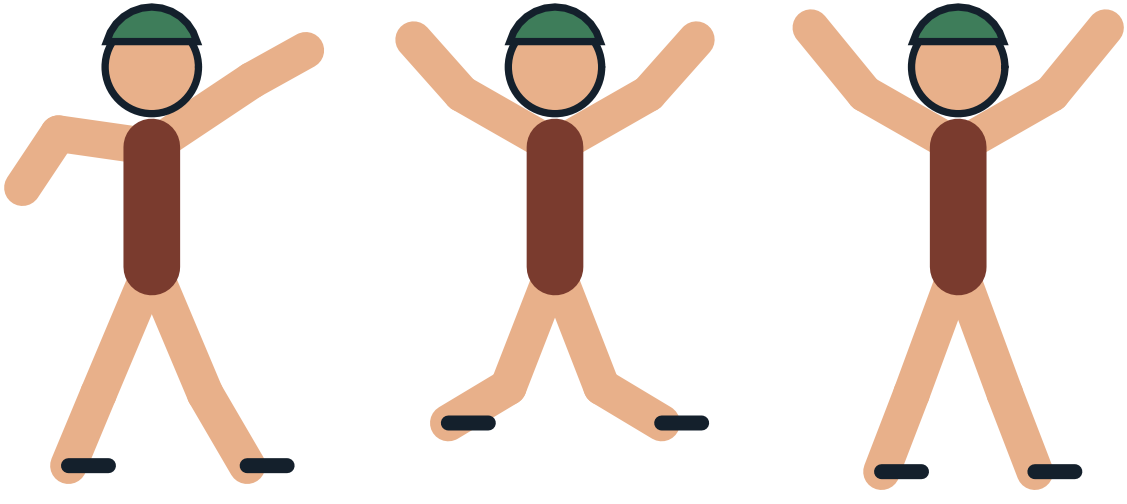


The Sport on Earth Mark

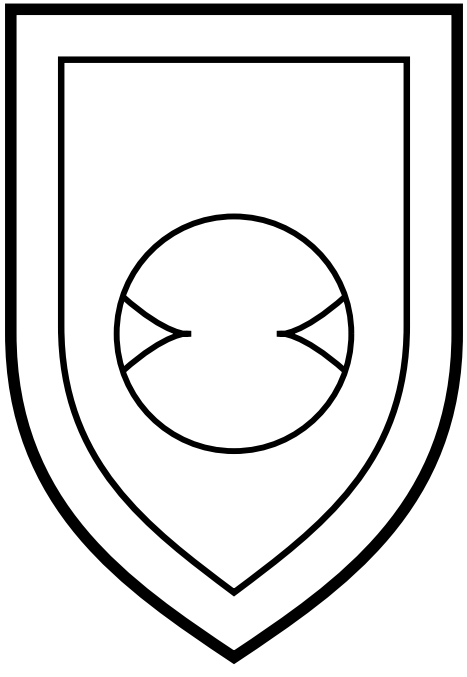
Every sport on Sport on Earth carries its own original mark, drawn for the site. Here is this sport's.



Moves of the Game

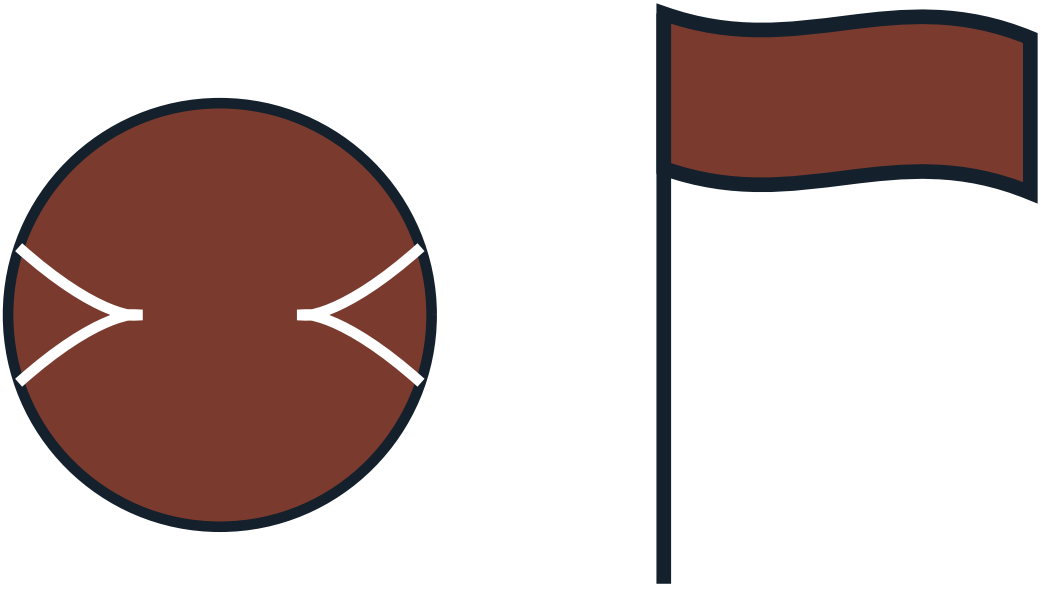


Design a Badge

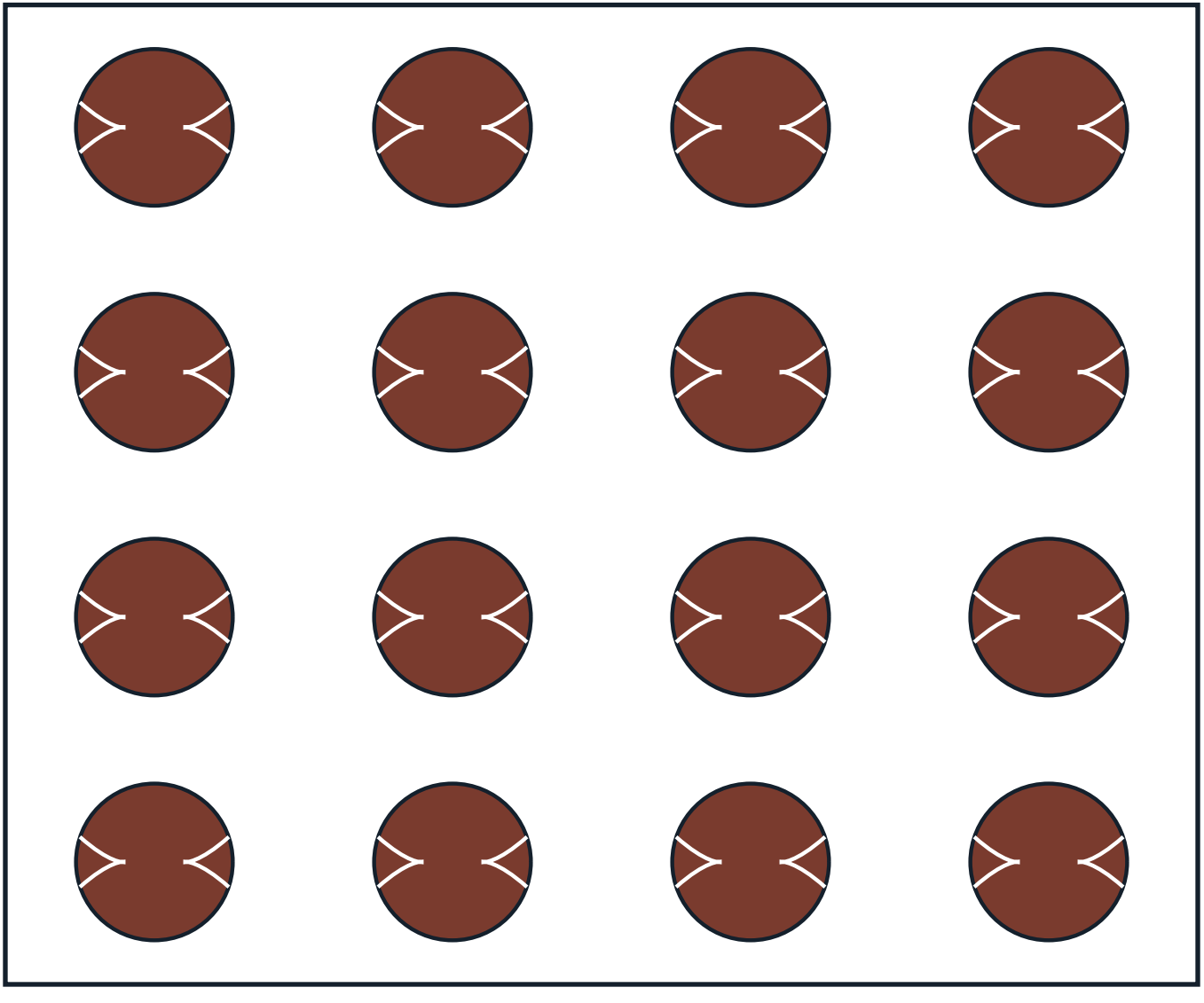


Draw and colour a badge for your own team.

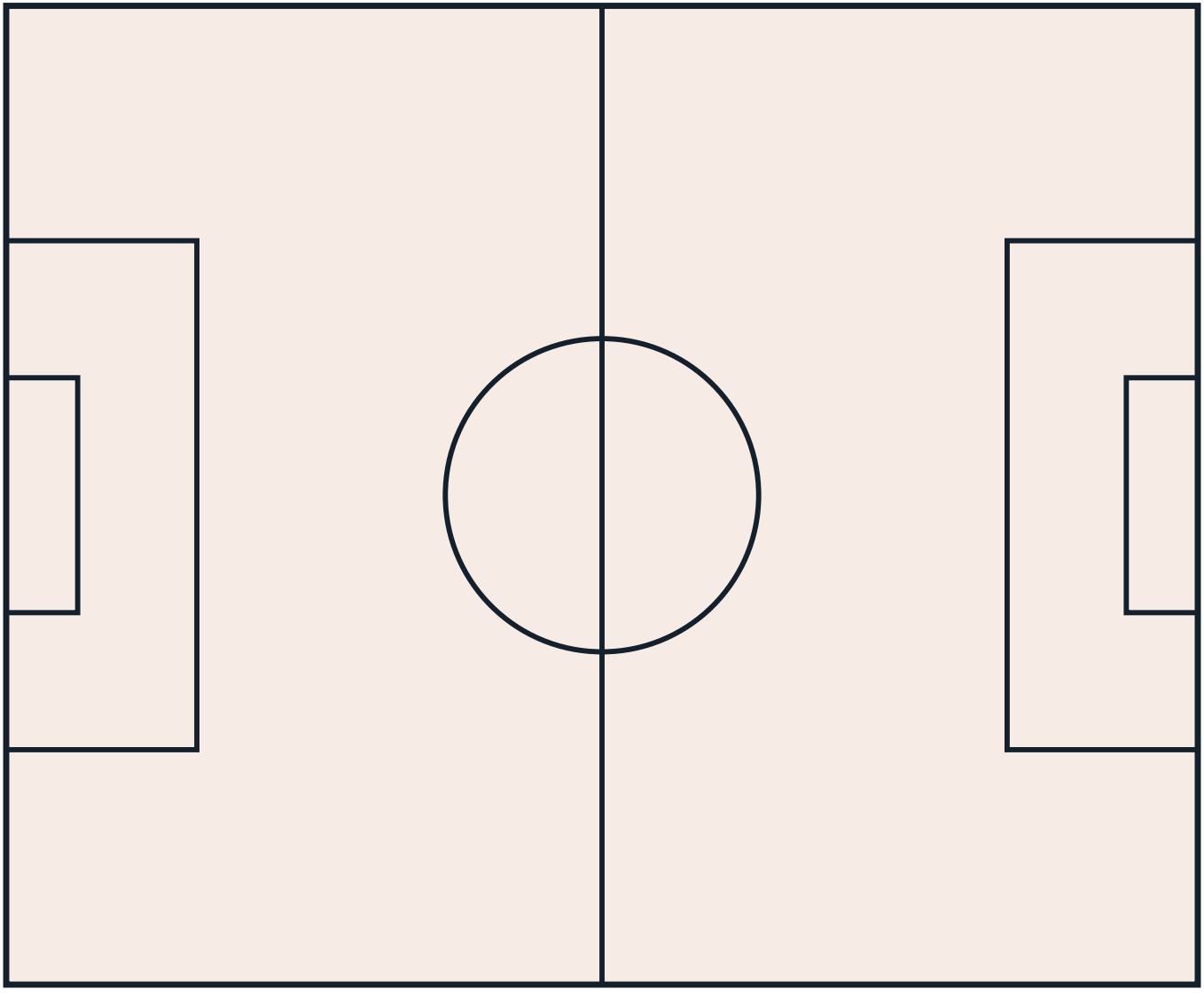
The Gear Parade



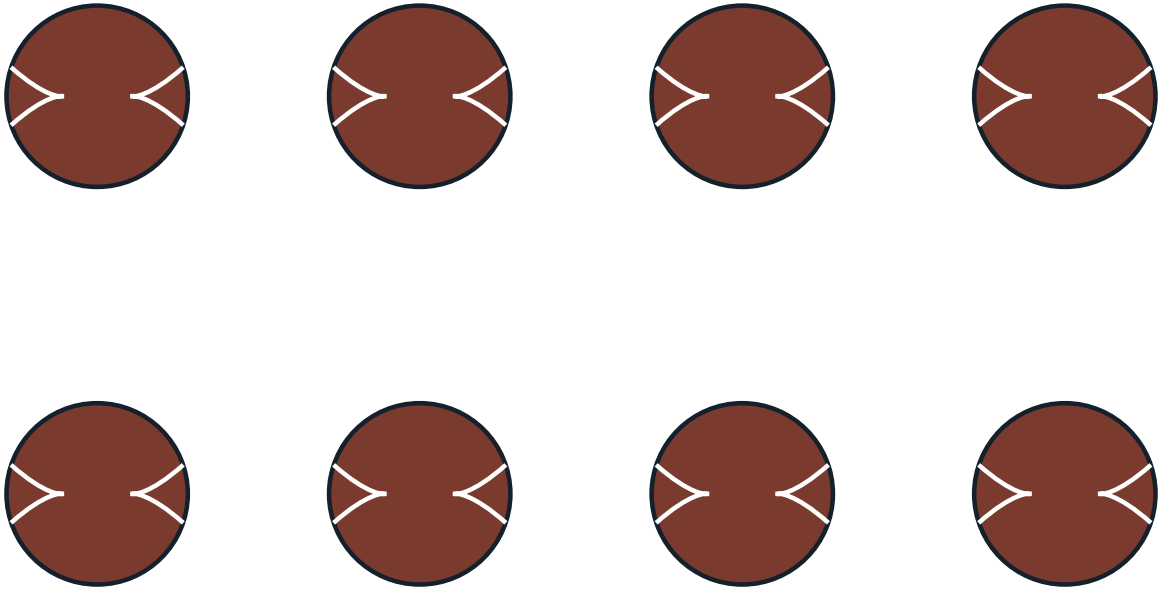
Pattern Play



The Arena From Above



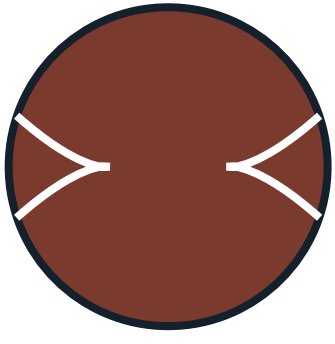
Count the Balls!



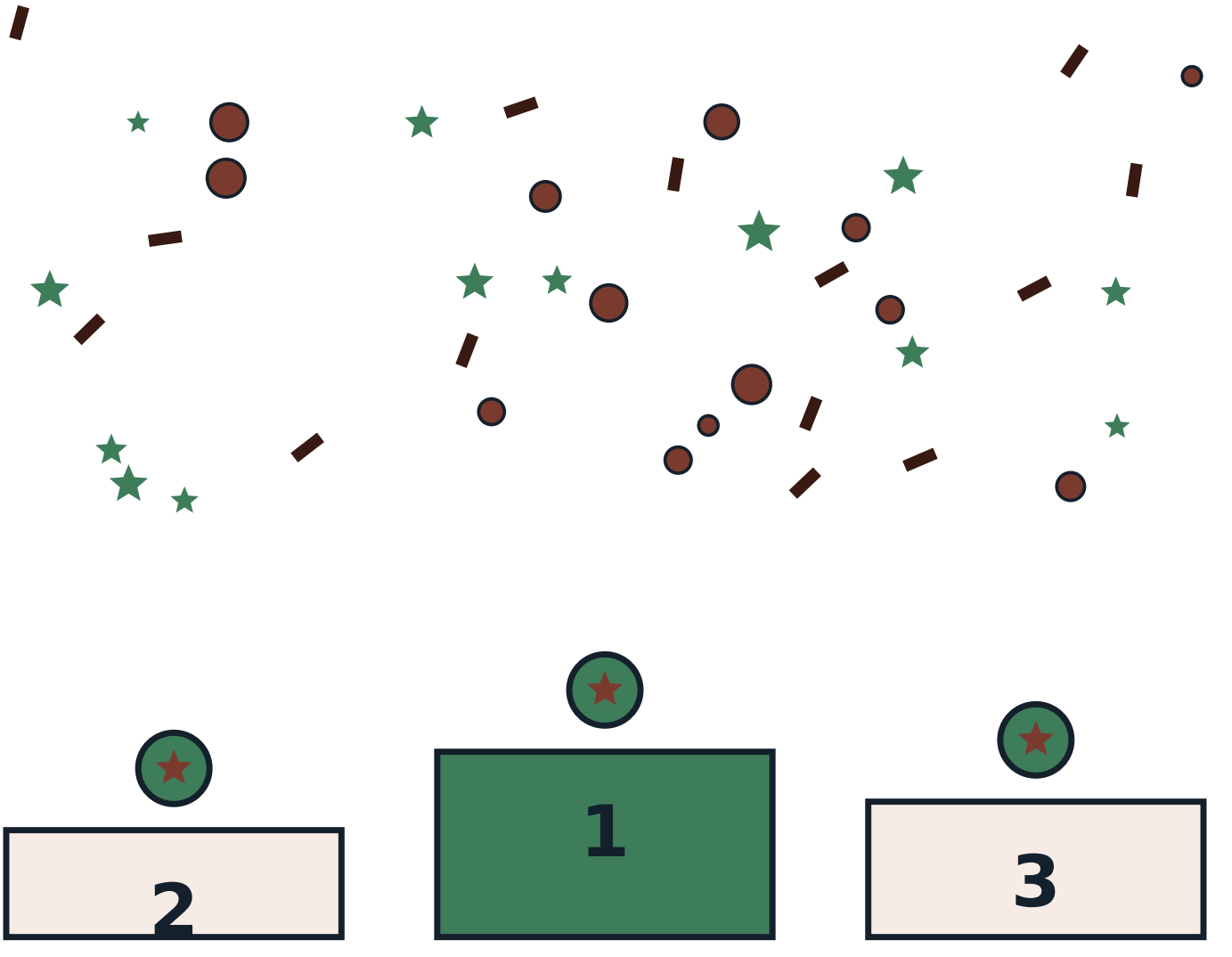
How many can you count? Write the number here: _____

My Favourite Part of Pelota and Jai Alai

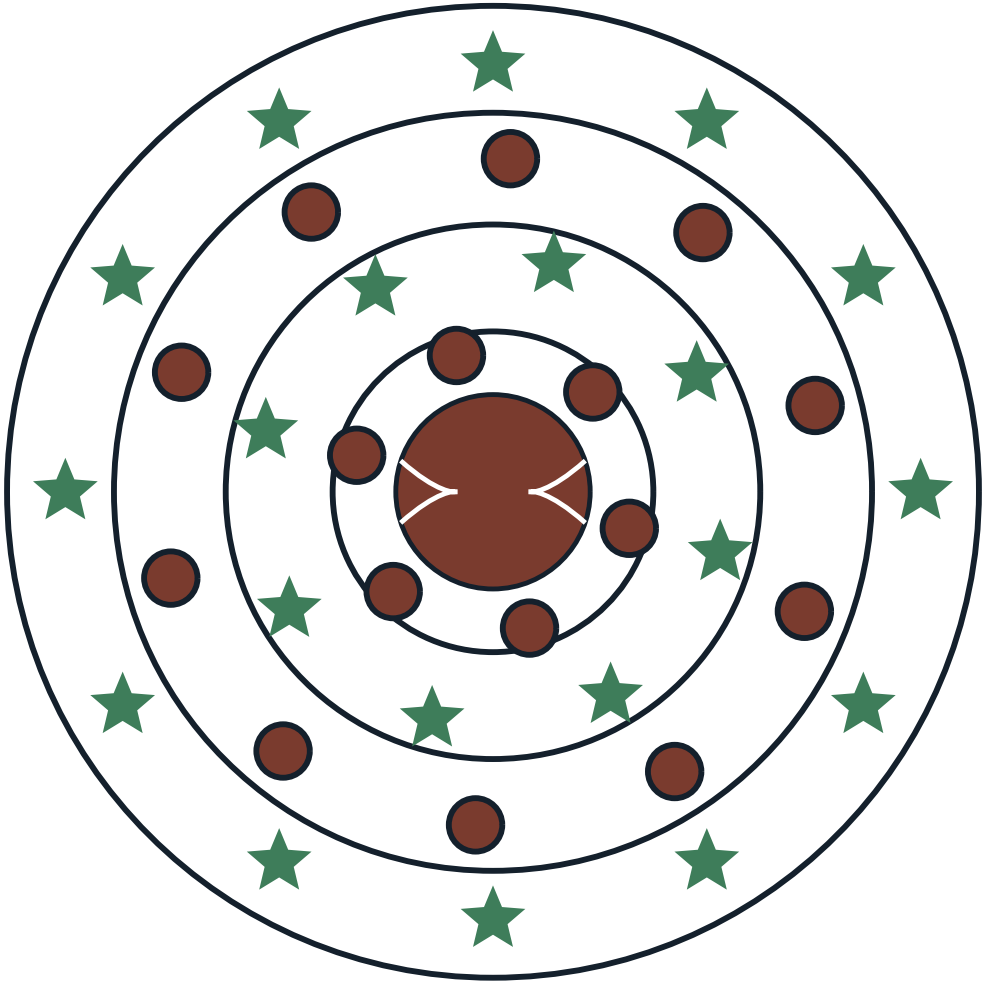
Gear Close-Up



Champions!



The Mandala of the Game



About This Book

Governing body: Federación Internacional de Pelota Vasca (FIPV) — International Federation of Basque Pelota. Laws edition the site's rules file follows: FIPV Game Regulations with the federation's official cancha specifications as published on fipv.net (current edition). 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 Kabaddi
- The Cartoon Book of Sepak Takraw
- The Cartoon Book of Gaelic Handball
- The Cartoon Book of Calcio Storico
- The Cartoon Book of Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling
- The Cartoon Book of Eton Wall Game
- The Kabaddi Colouring Book
- The Sepak Takraw Colouring Book

My Notes

Pelota and Jai Alai

The Cartoon Book of Pelota and Jai Alai — a Sport on Earth Book.

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

