THE CARTOON BOOK OF

CALCIO STORICO



CALCIO STORICO

GOAL & INVASION

SPORT ON EARTH

Sport on Earth Books · The Traditional & regional Family

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

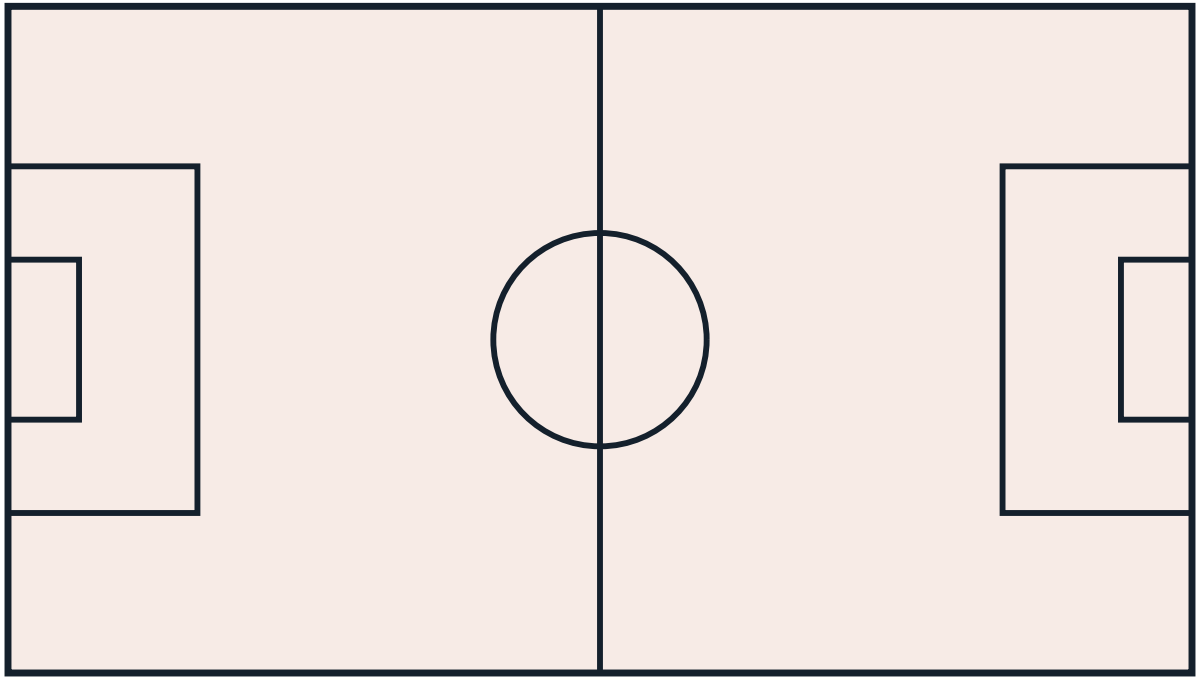
Meet Calcio Storico!

Florentine mix of rugby, wrestling and boxing in a sand pit.



Where It Is Played

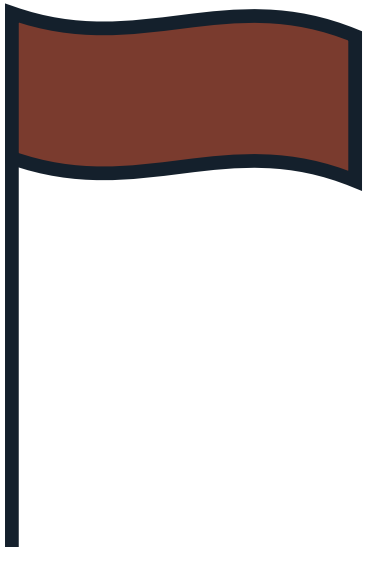
A sand-covered field in Piazza Santa Croce, twice as long as it is wide (approximately 100 m x 50 m), divided by a white line into two identical squares.



The Gear

A ball, historical costume (livrea), and a goal net running the full width of each end of the field; no protective equipment is specified in the reference rules.





How It Starts

Calcio Storico is a closed historic re-enactment for the four Florence quarters, not an open-entry sport; a beginner's route in is as a spectator at the June tournament in Piazza Santa Croce.



How to Play

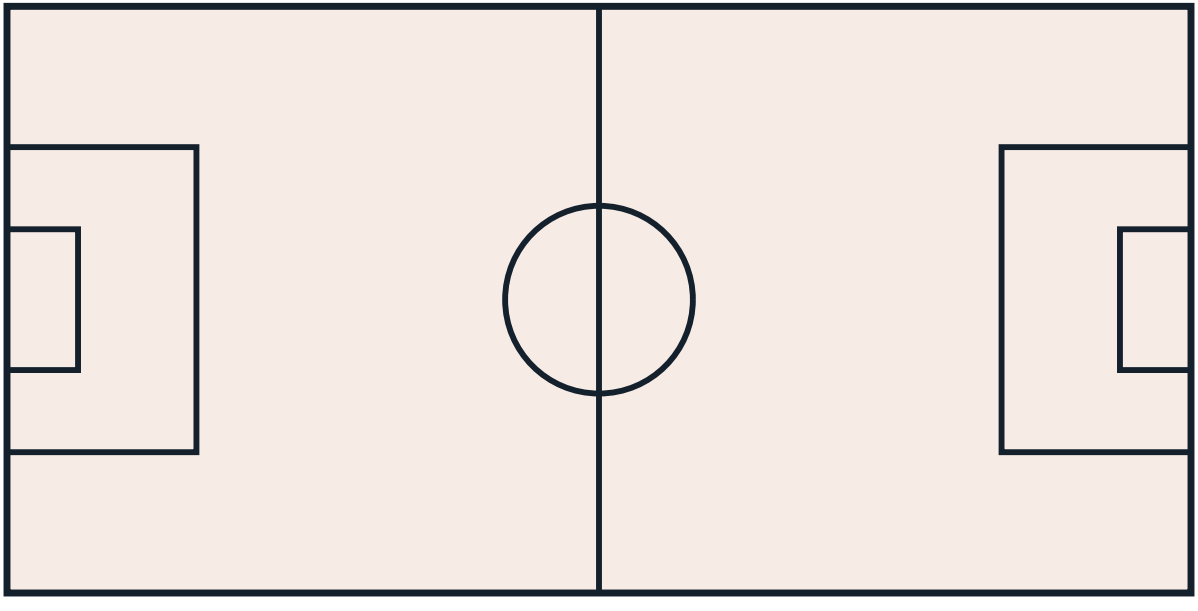
- Four teams represent Florence's historic quarters — Santa Croce (Azzurri), Santa Maria Novella (Rossi), Santo Spirito (Bianchi) and San Giovanni (Verdi) — playing two semi-finals and a final on 24 June.
- Each team has 27 players: four datori indietro (goalkeepers), three datori innanzi (fullbacks), five sconciatori (halfbacks) and 15 innanzi or corridori (forwards).
- No substitutions are allowed for injured or expelled players.
- Matches last 50 minutes, played without the modern half-time structure, on a sand-covered field.

More of the Game

- The game starts when the pallaio throws the ball towards the centre line after a cannon shot, which also announces each caccia.
- A caccia (goal) is scored by getting the ball into the goal net running the width of the opponents' end; teams change sides after every caccia.
- Precision matters: throwing or kicking the ball above the net awards the opposing team half a caccia.
- Head-butting, punching, elbowing and choking are allowed in the modern game, but sucker punches and kicks to the head are banned, as is more than one player attacking a single opponent; violations lead to expulsion.

The Shape of a Match

A 27-a-side Renaissance football-rugby-wrestling hybrid: two Florence quarter teams fight to put the ball into the end net over a single 50-minute match, scoring cacce.



More of the Traditional & regional Family

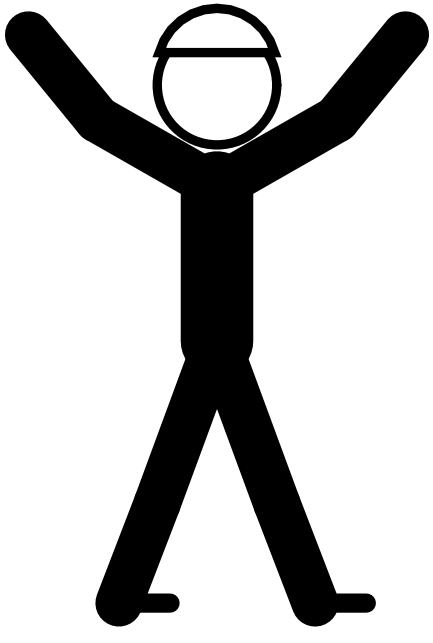
- Kabaddi — A raider tries to tag defenders and return to their own half while holding one breath, chanting.
- Sepak Takraw — Southeast Asian kick volleyball with a rattan ball.
- Pelota and Jai Alai — Basque ball games played off a wall.
- Gaelic Handball — Irish wall handball played with gloved hands.
- 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

Calcio storico fiorentino is governed by Florence's own traditional authority under a code descended from the 1580 rules of Giovanni de' Bardi — 27-a-side, 50 minutes, a hybrid of football, rugby and wrestling whose written law is deliberately archaic; modern editions add medical and safety administration around the fixed historic code. No modern law change is carried for calcio storico.

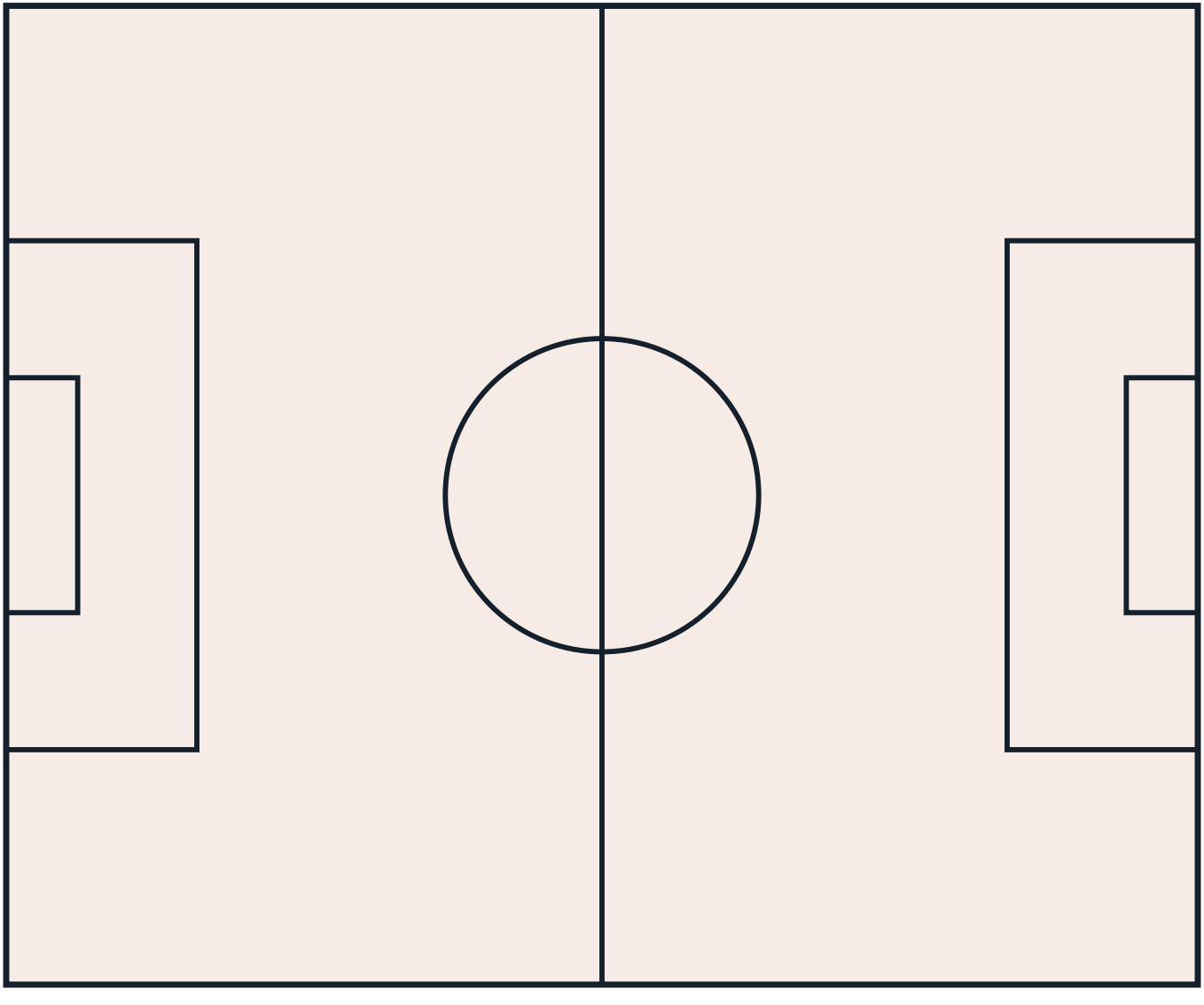


Colour the Action



Psst — this page is a colouring page!

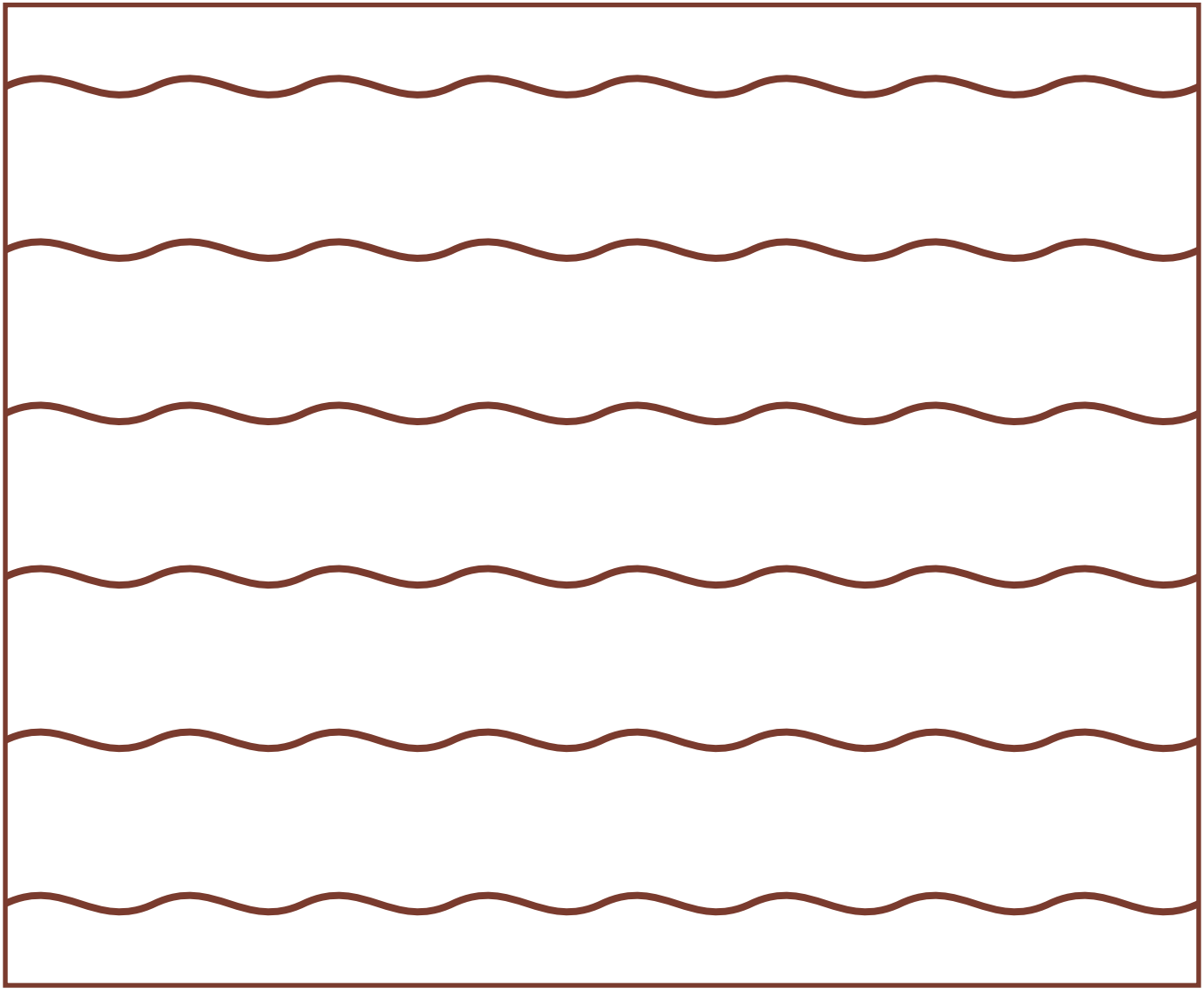
The Sport Today



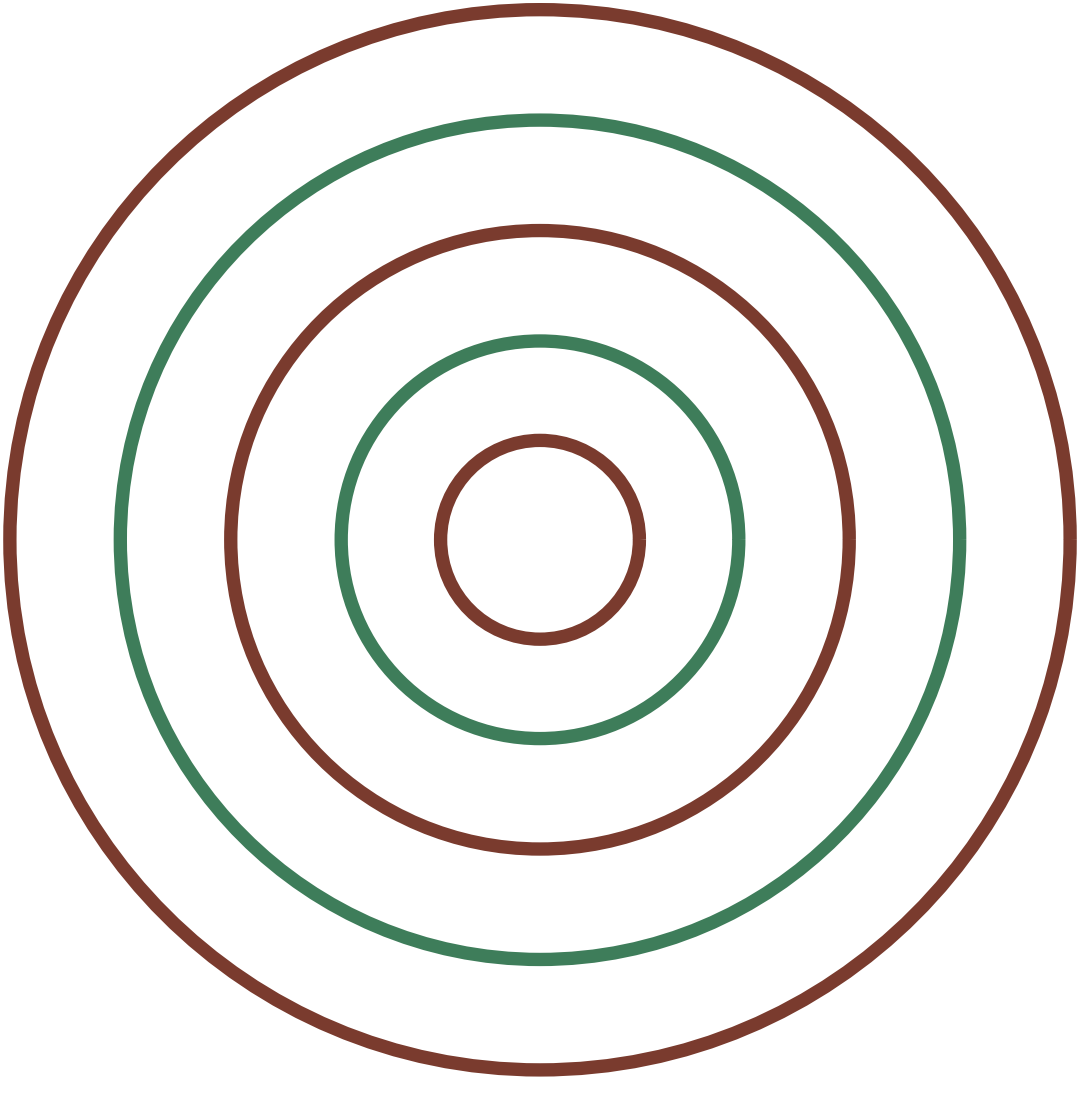
At School and College



Play It Near You



Through the Year

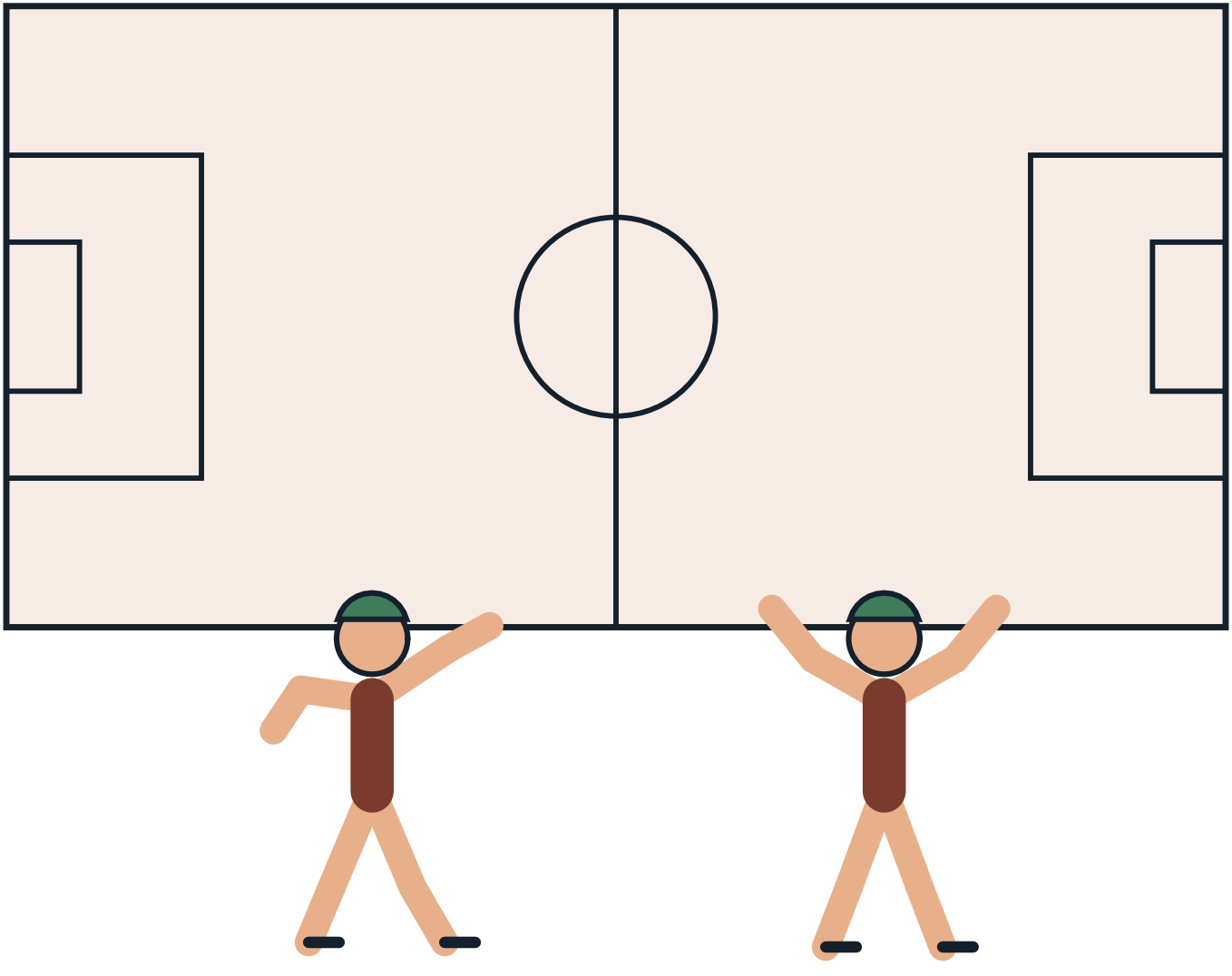


The Traditional & regional Family

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.
- Pelota and Jai Alai — Basque ball games played off a wall.
- Gaelic Handball — Irish wall handball played with gloved hands.
- Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling — English race chasing a cheese wheel down a hill.

Game Day!

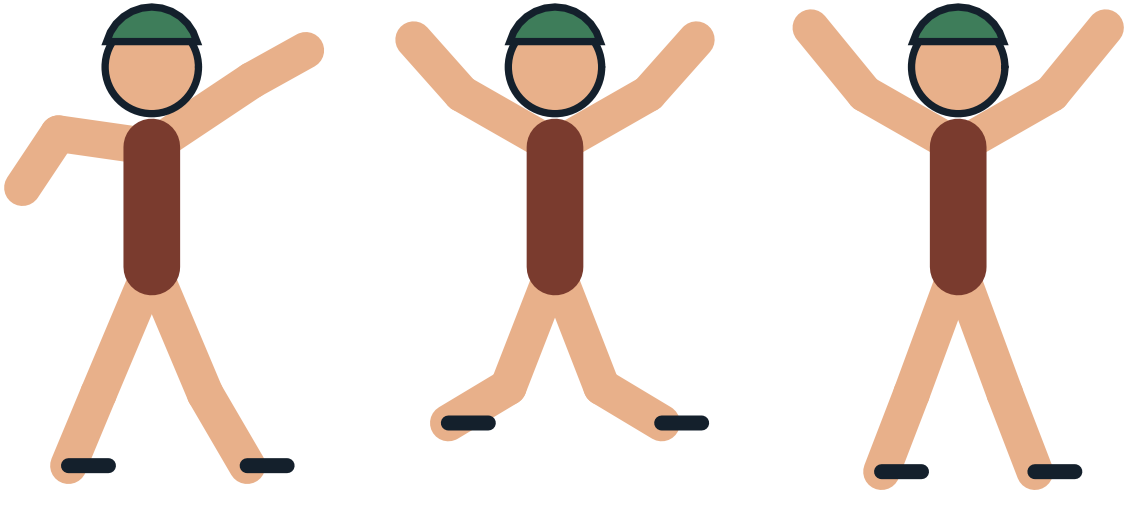


The Sport on Earth Mark

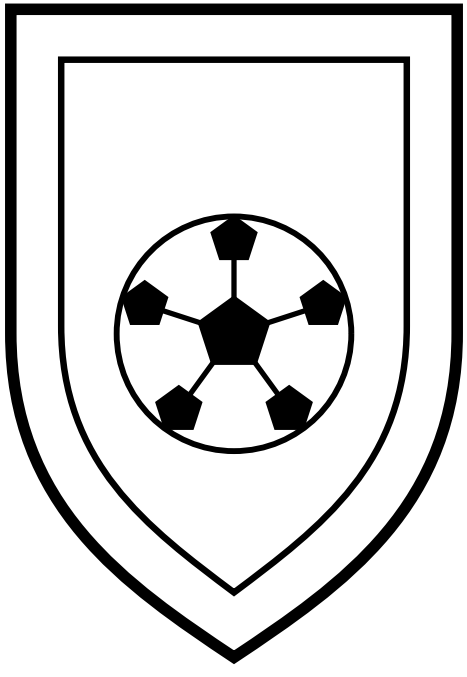
Every sport on Sport on Earth carries its own original mark, drawn for the site. Here is this sport's.



Moves of the Game



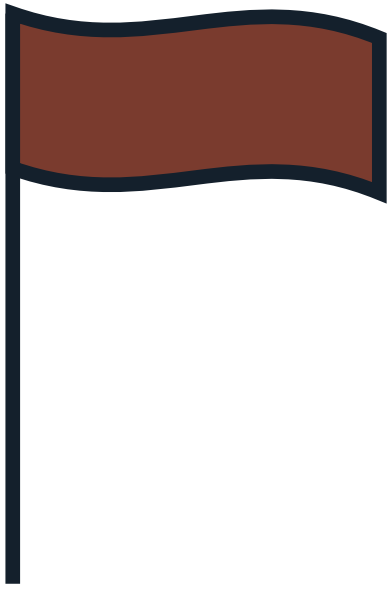
Design a Badge



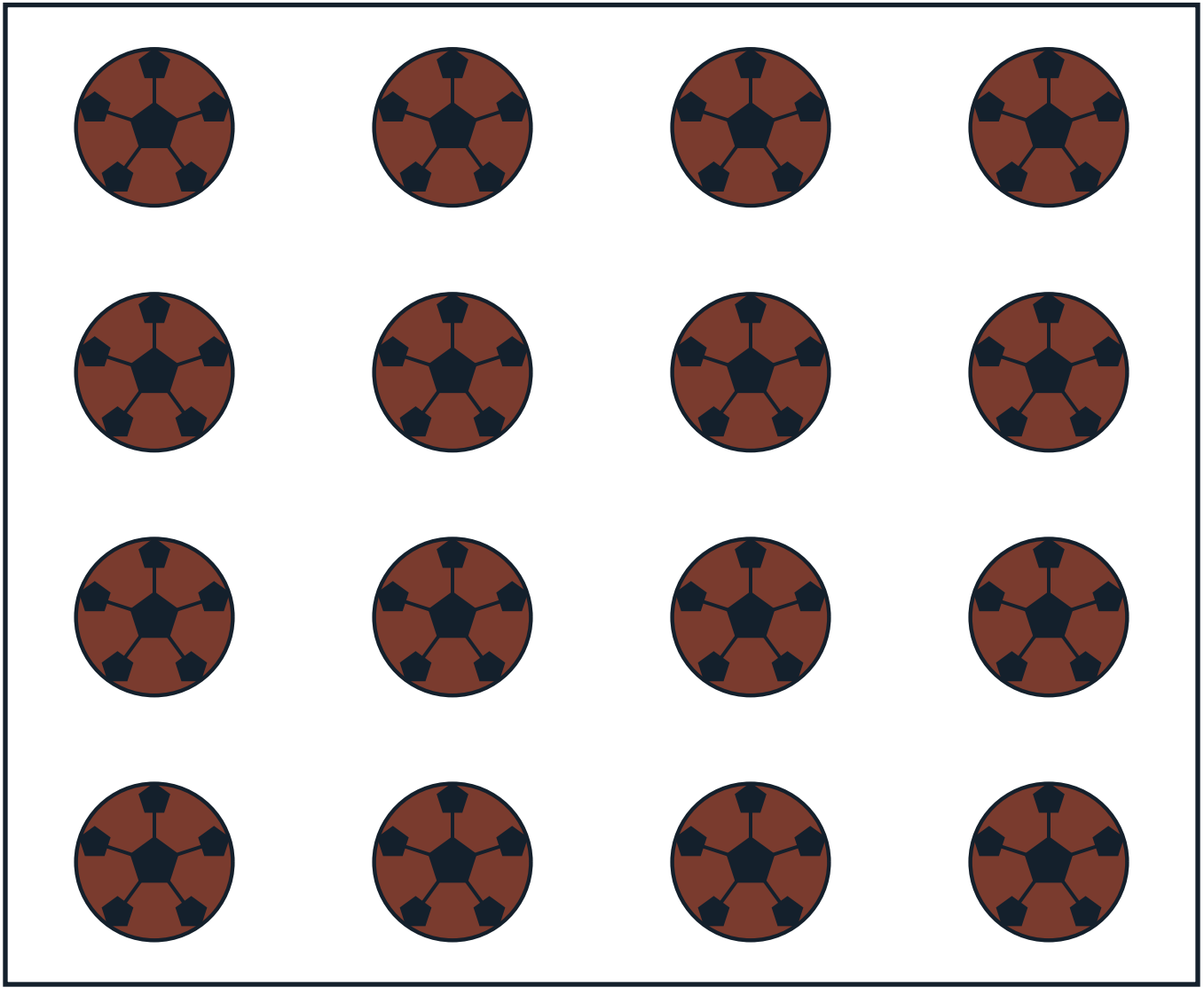
Draw and colour a badge for your own team.

The Gear Parade

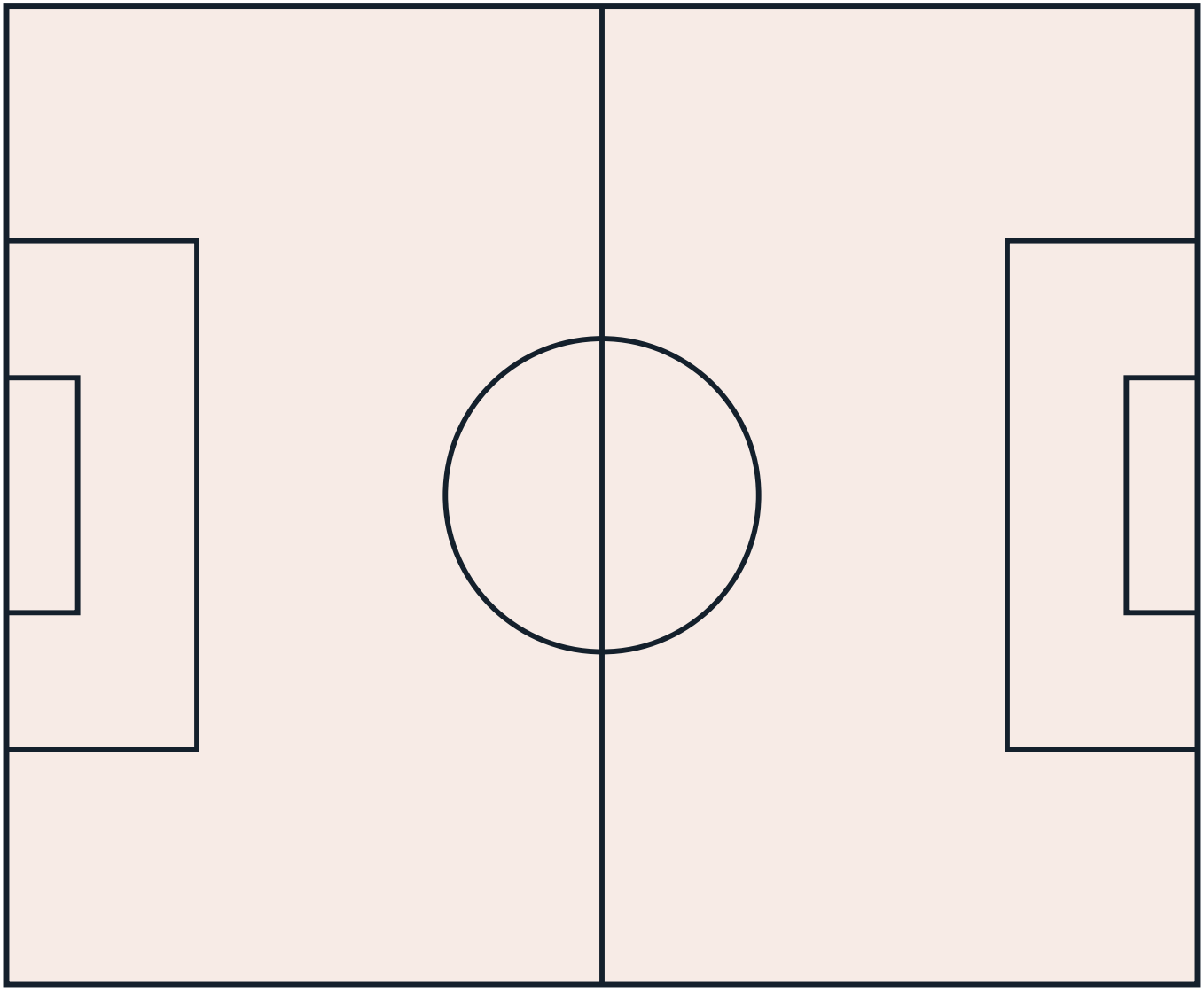




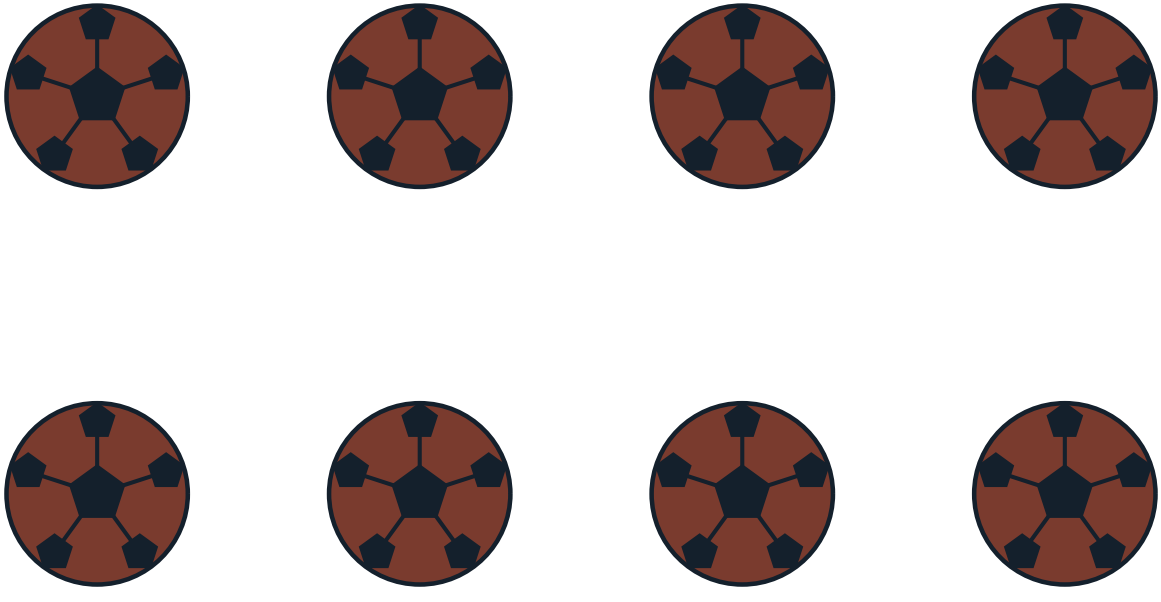
Pattern Play



The Arena From Above



Count the Balls!



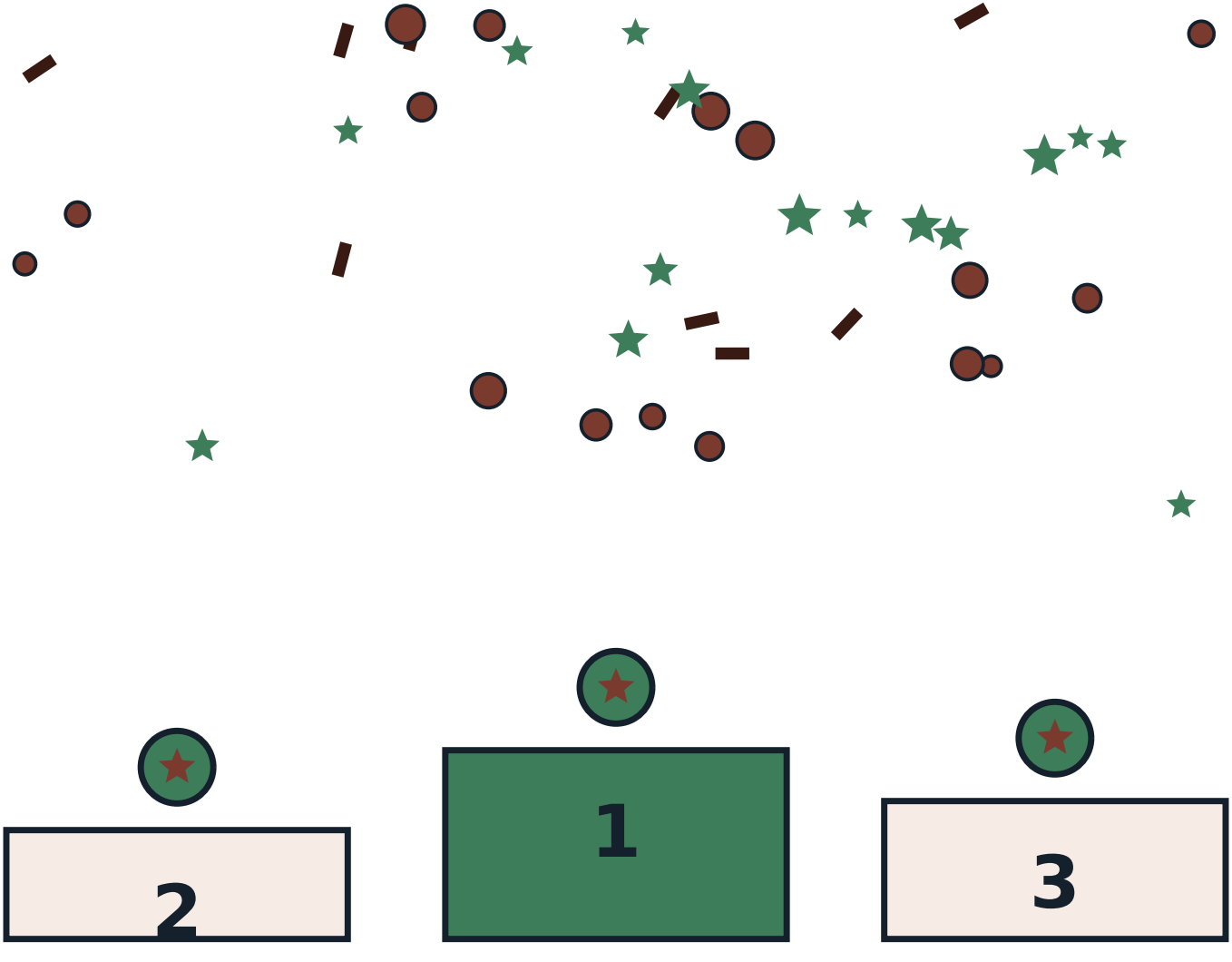
How many can you count? Write the number here: _____

My Favourite Part of Calcio Storico

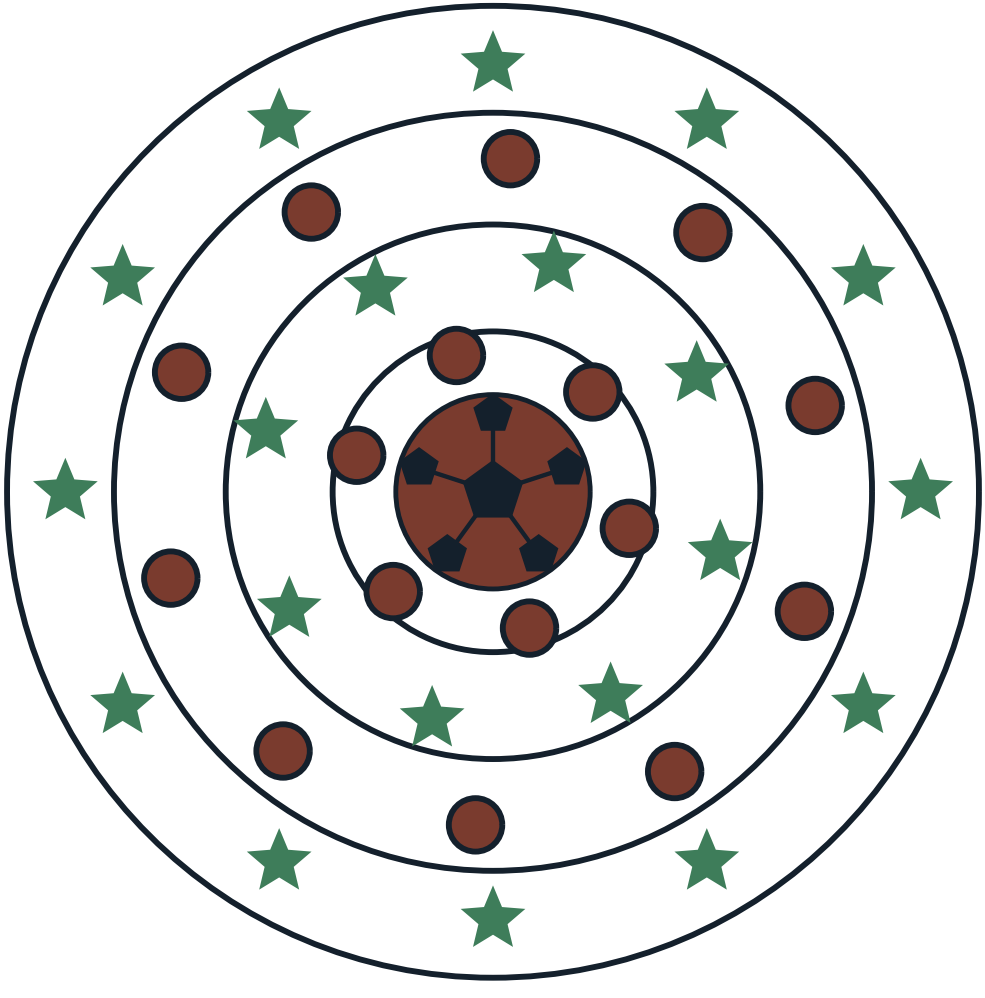
Gear Close-Up



Champions!



The Mandala of the Game



About This Book

Governing body: No single governing body — Comune di Firenze / Calcio Storico Fiorentino tournament organisation. Laws edition the site's rules file follows: Rules first recorded by Giovanni de' Bardi, 1580; modern Florence tournament form. 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 Pelota and Jai Alai
- The Cartoon Book of Gaelic Handball
- 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

Calcio Storico

The Cartoon Book of Calcio Storico — 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.

