THE CARTOON BOOK OF

PLUNGE FOR DISTANCE



WATER

SPORT ON EARTH

Sport on Earth Books · The Olympic past Family

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

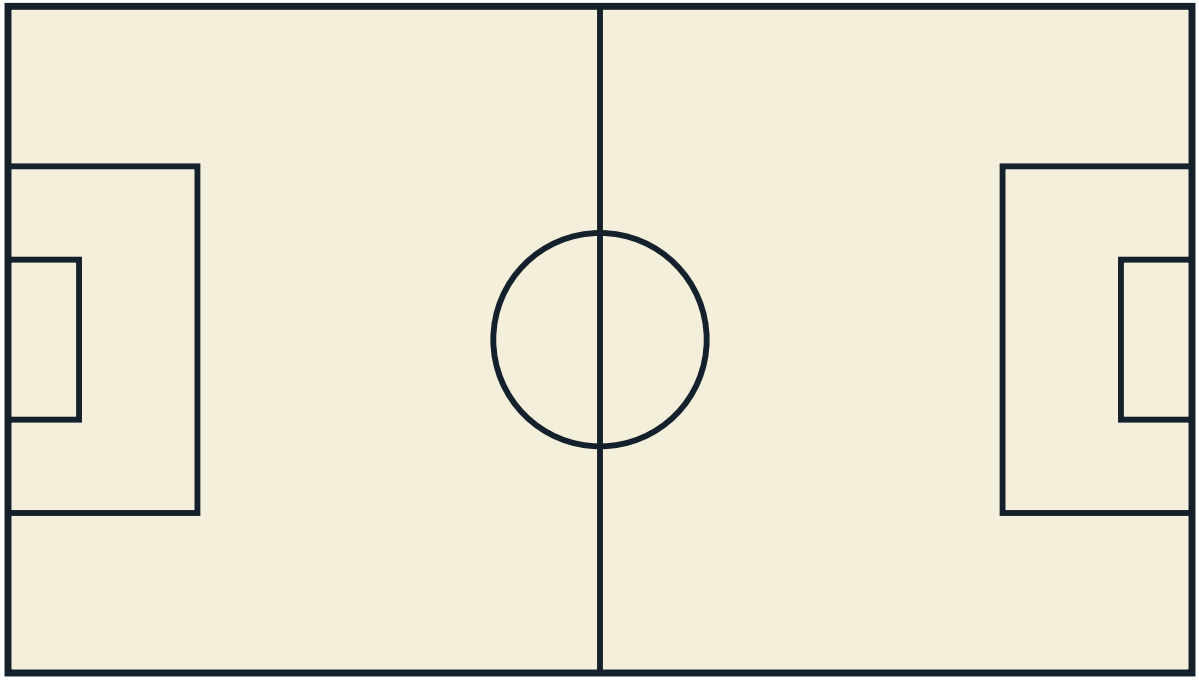
Meet Plunge for Distance!

Diving event decided by distance glided, held in 1904.



Where It Is Played

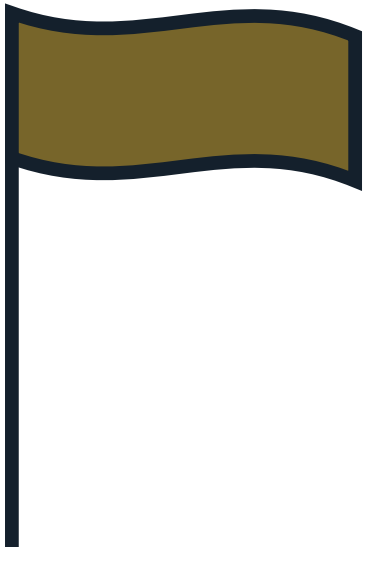
A swimming pool or open-water course at Forest Park, St Louis in 1904, measured along a base line from the take-off point.



The Gear

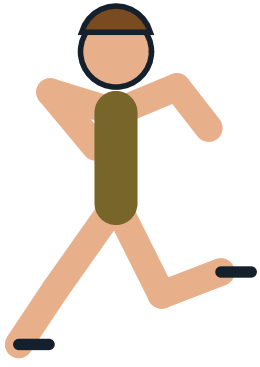
Swimsuit only; a low, spring-free take-off 18 inches above the water as defined in the historical rules.





How It Starts

There is no modern competition to enter — the event is defunct; it survives only as a historical curiosity and occasional informal pool game played to the 60-second, no-propulsion rule.



How to Play

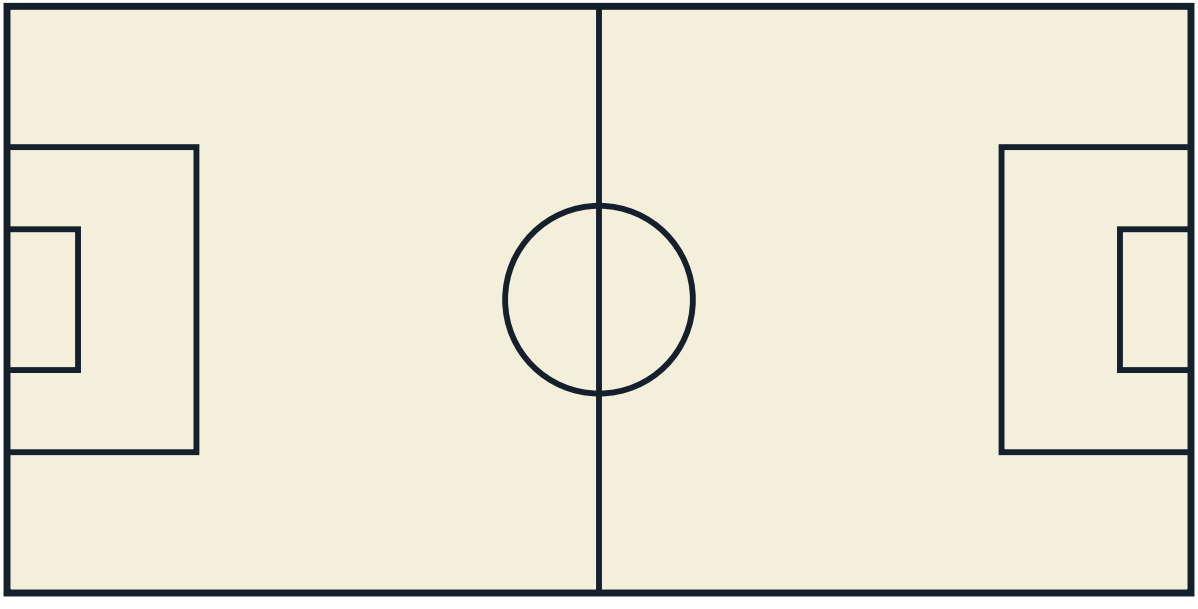
- Format: a diving long jump — the competitor makes a standing dive ('the plunge') and then glides underwater without swimming.
- The plunge was defined as a dive from a stationary take-off free from spring, from a height of 18 inches above the water.
- On reaching the water the plunger glides face downward without imparting any propulsion to the body from the arms and legs.
- Distance was measured after either 60 seconds had passed or the competitor's head broke the surface, whichever came first.

More of the Game

- The total distance was measured to the farthest part of the body from the start, opposite a point at right angles to the base line.
- The longest distance wins.
- The only Olympic contest was held on 5 September 1904 at Forest Park, St Louis, with five competitors, all from the United States.
- William Paul Dickey won the 1904 gold with 19.05 m (62 ft 6 in), which remains the Olympic record because the event never returned to the Games.

The Shape of a Match

Dive in, hold a rigid streamlined glide for up to a minute without moving a limb, and let momentum carry you as far as possible.

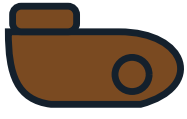


More of the Olympic past Family

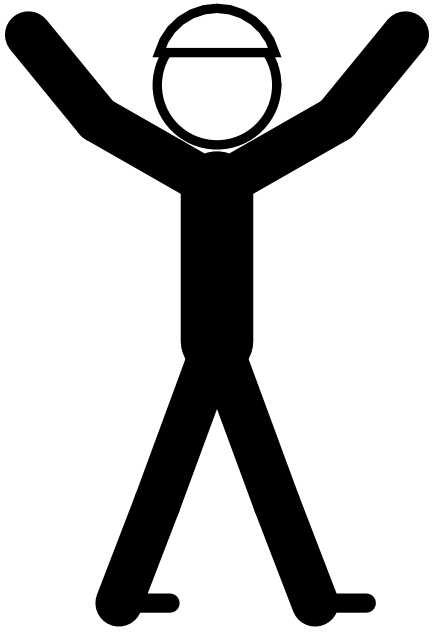
- Tug of War — Olympic medal sport from 1900 to 1920.
- Club Swinging — Gymnastic club routines at the 1904 and 1932 Games.
- Roque — American croquet variant played in 1904.

A Note on the Rules

Plunge for distance is a defunct competitive event (an Olympic event in 1904, contested into the 1920s): a standing dive, then an underwater glide timed over 60 seconds with no propulsion. It vanished as a serious discipline and has no modern code or federation. This section is the honest record of a defunct sport. No documented rule change is carried.

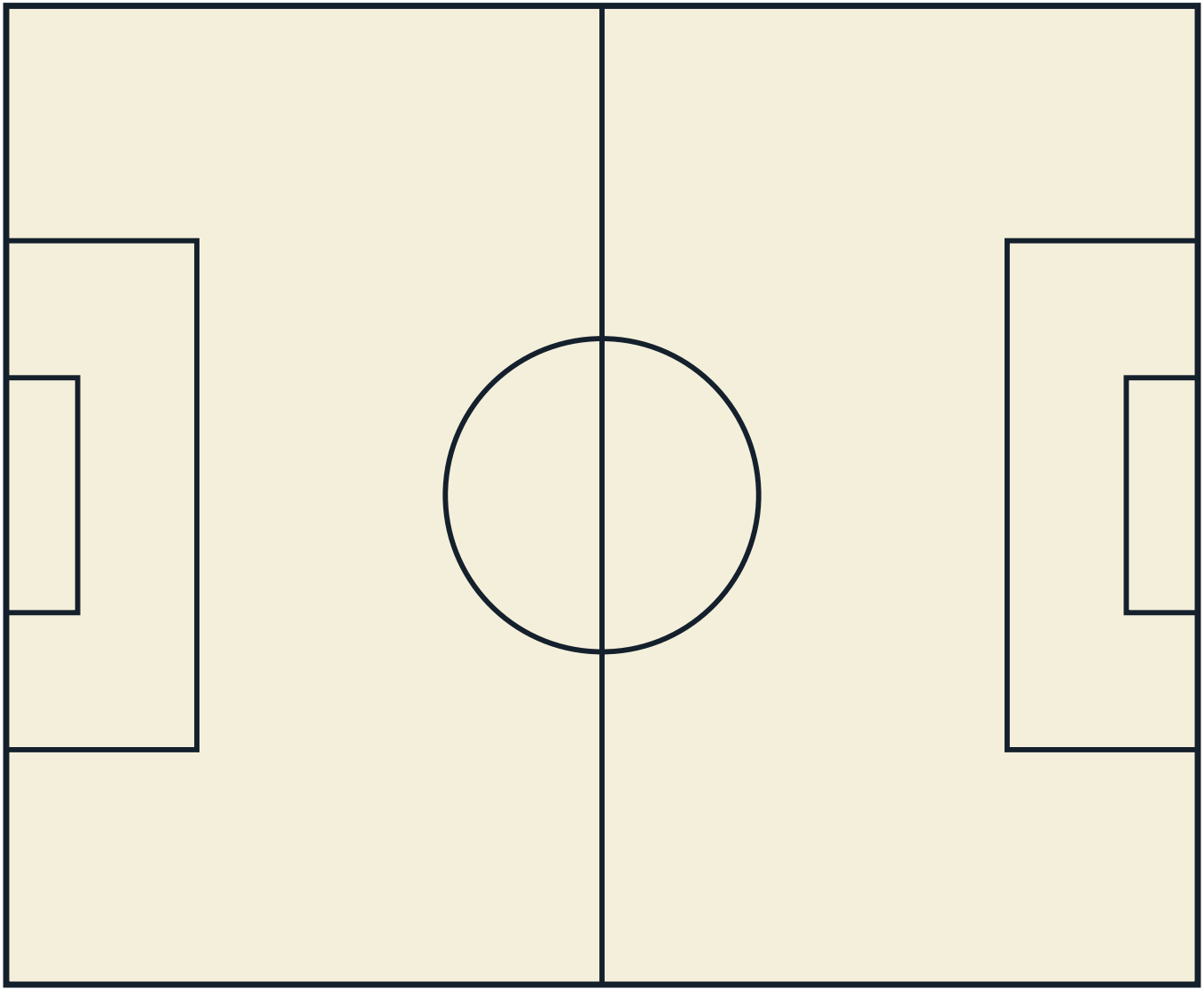


Colour the Action

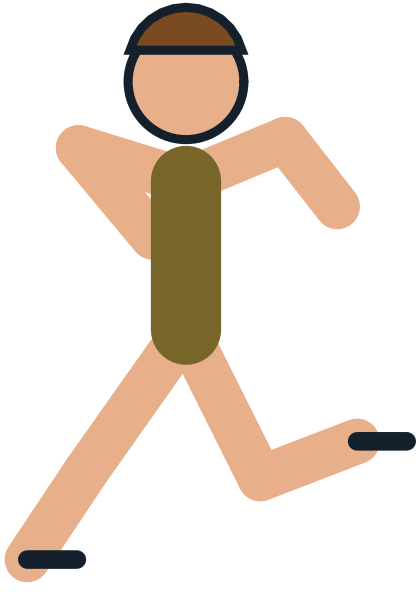


Psst — this page is a colouring page!

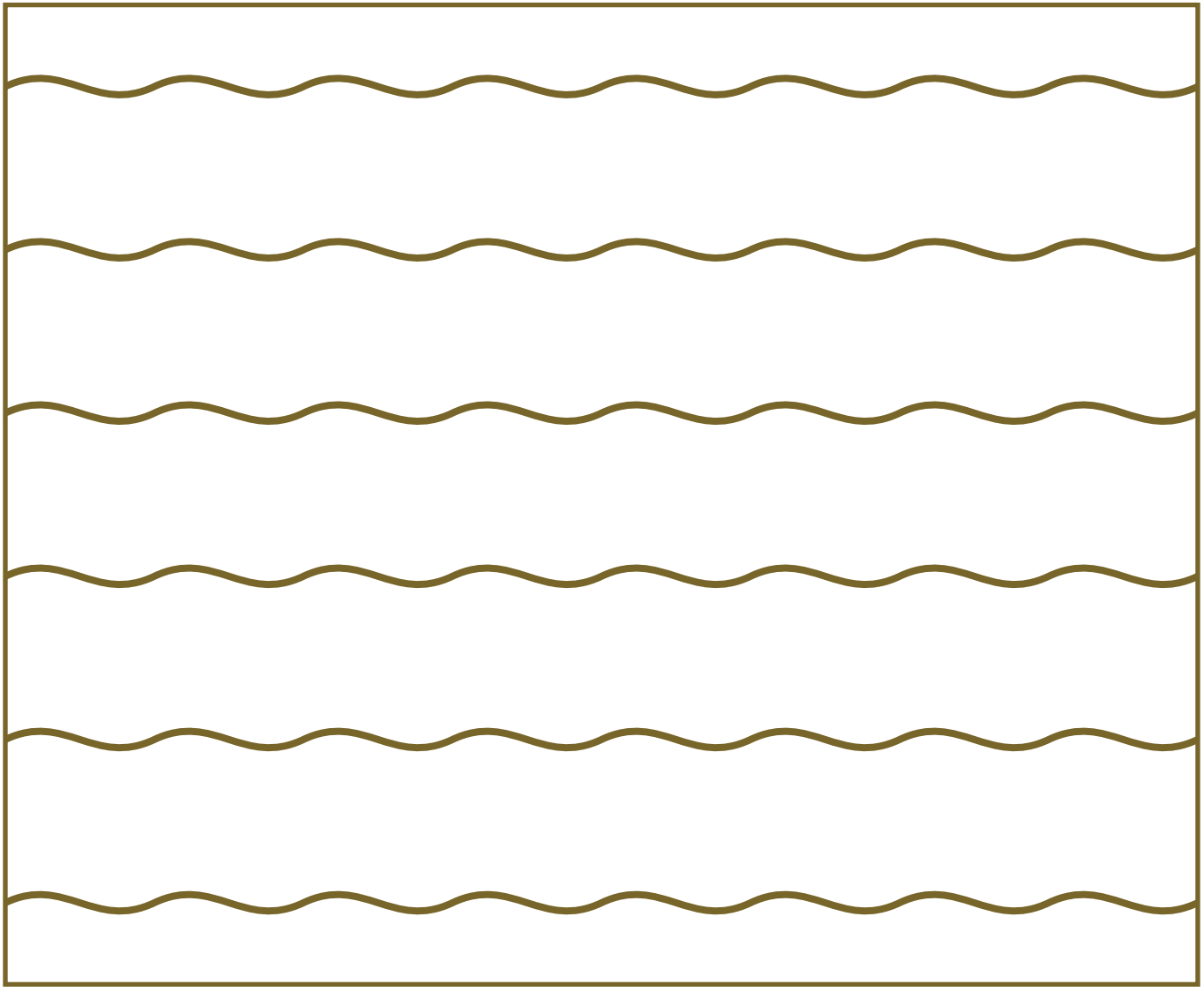
The Sport Today



At School and College



Play It Near You



Through the Year

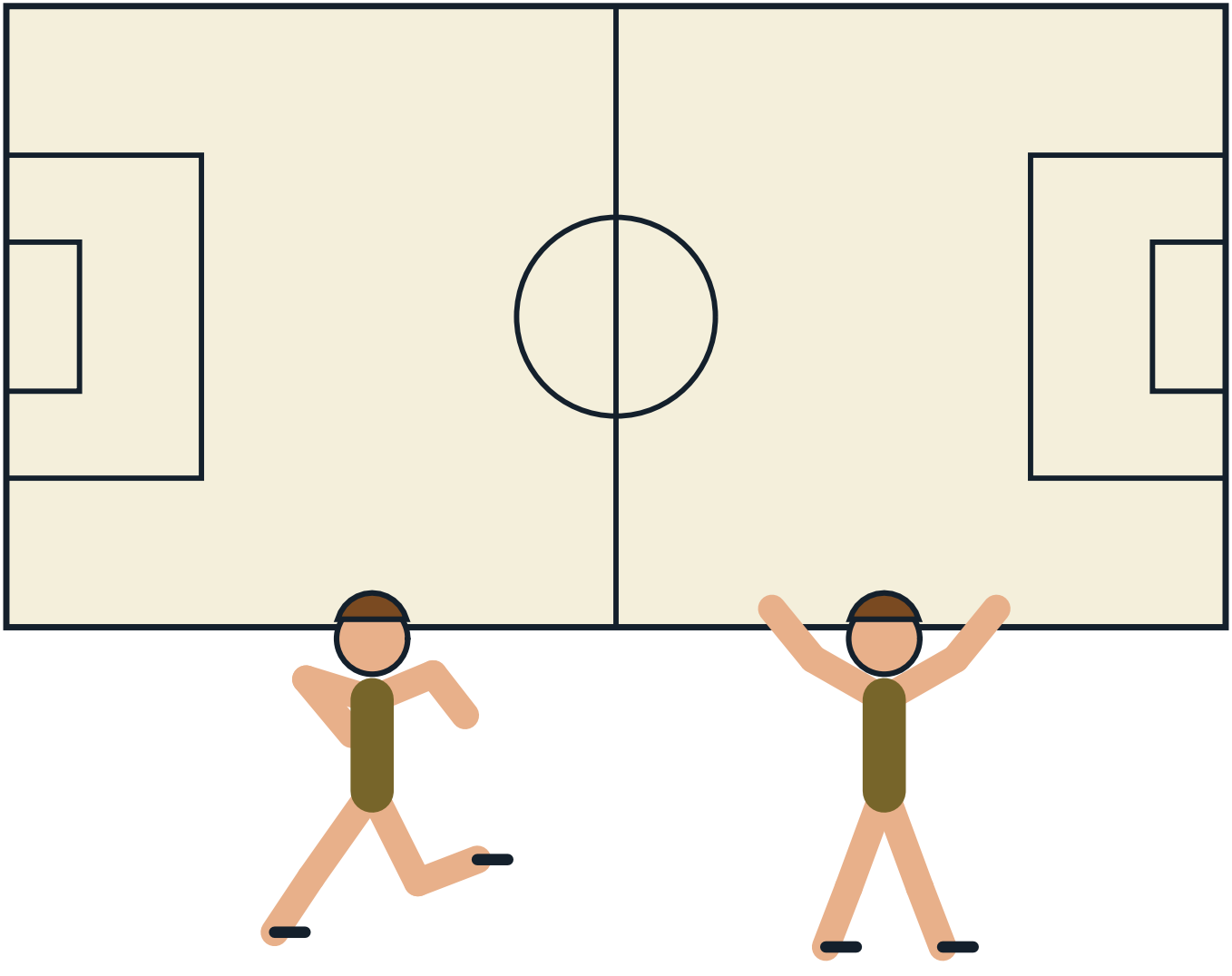


The Olympic past Family

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.

- Tug of War — Olympic medal sport from 1900 to 1920.
- Club Swinging — Gymnastic club routines at the 1904 and 1932 Games.
- Roque — American croquet variant played in 1904.

Game Day!

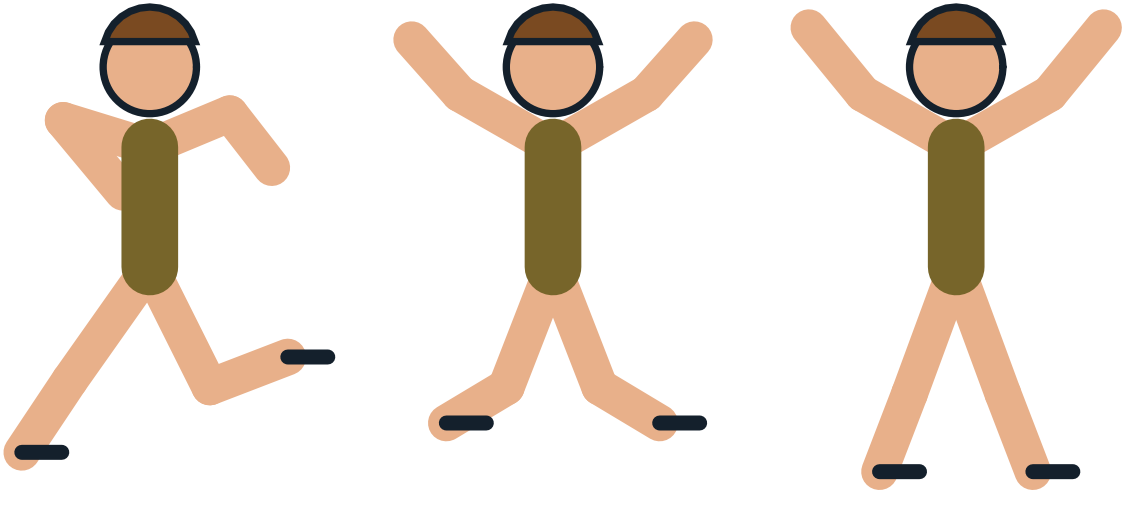


The Sport on Earth Mark

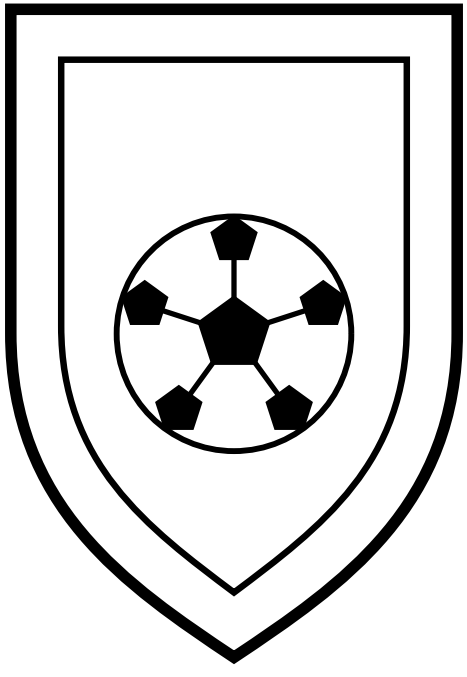
Every sport on Sport on Earth carries its own original mark, drawn for the site. Here is this sport's.



Moves of the Game



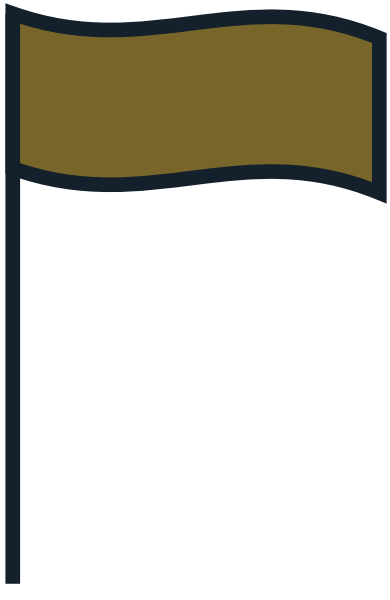
Design a Badge



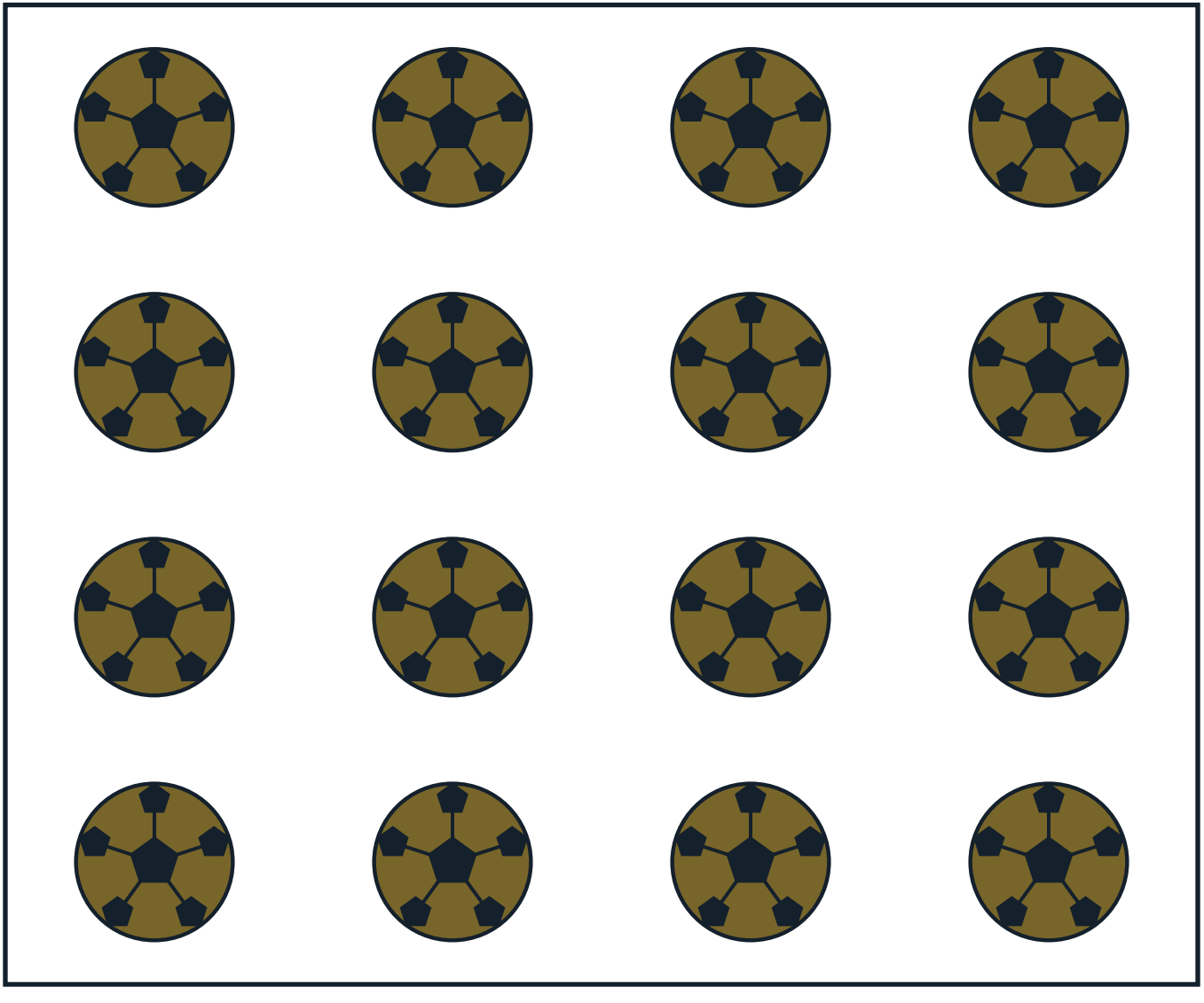
Draw and colour a badge for your own team.

The Gear Parade

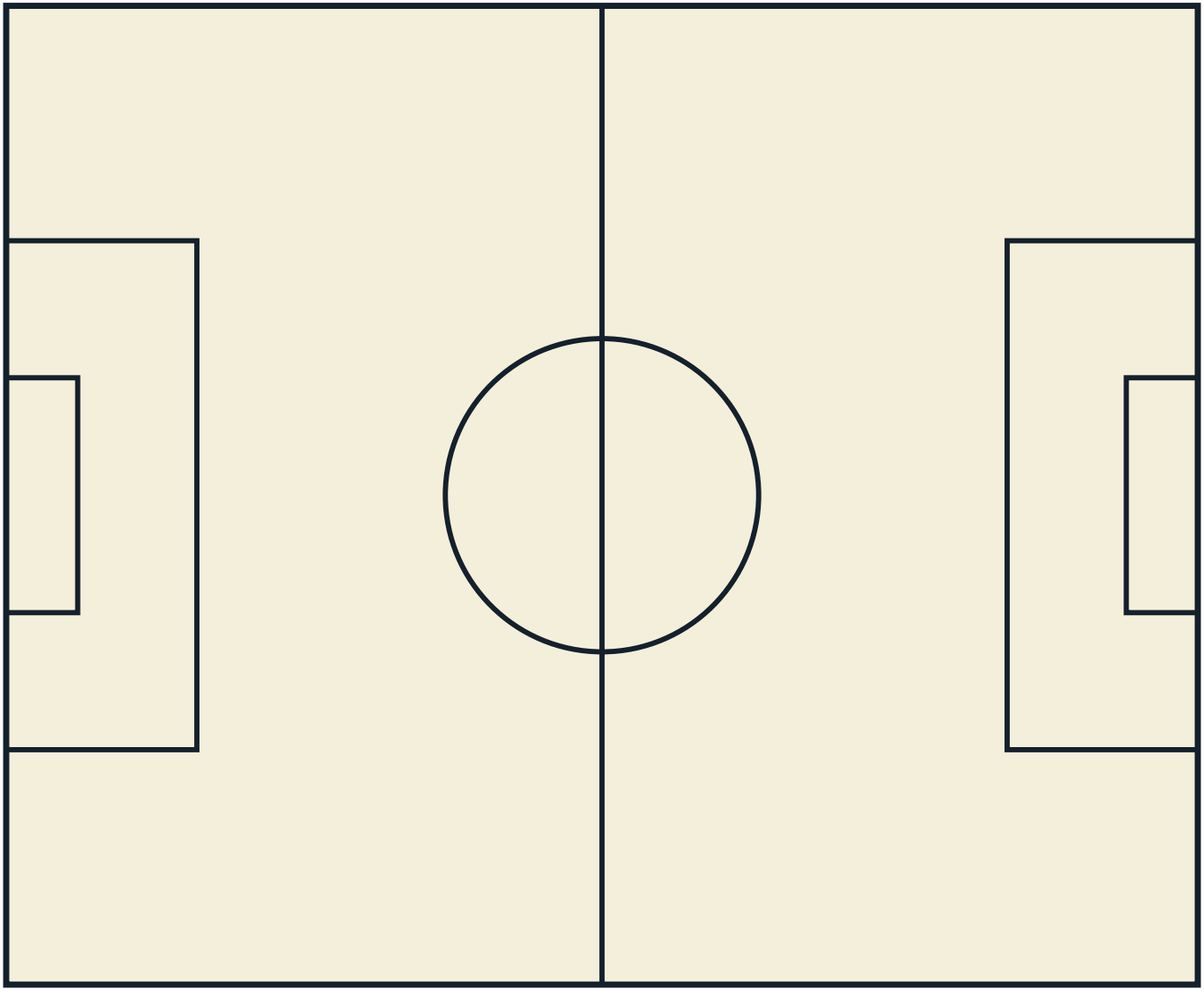




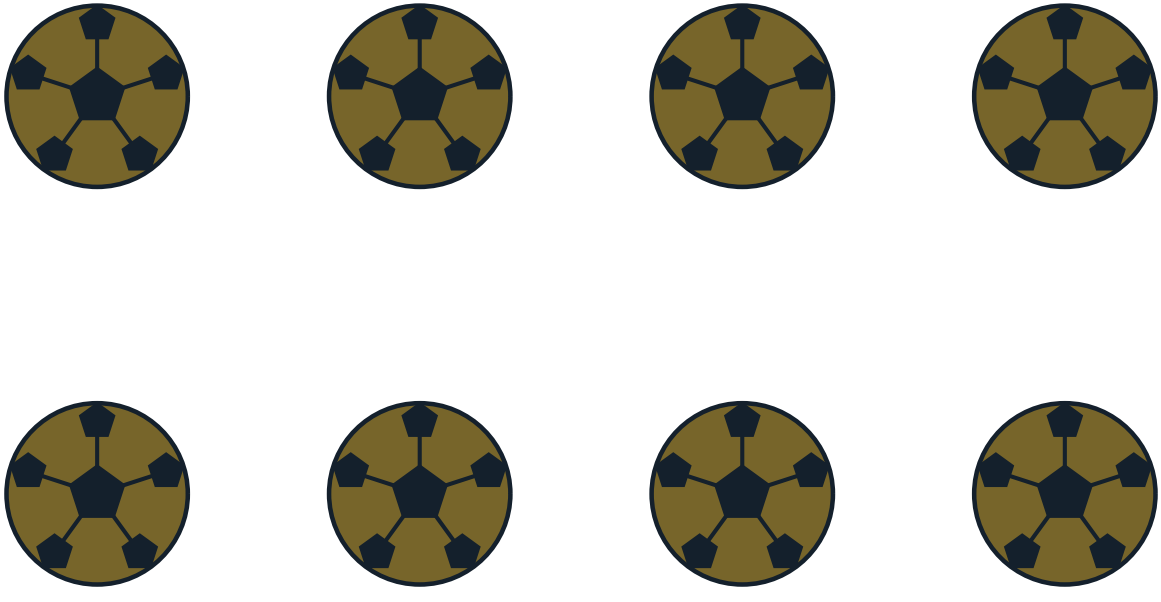
Pattern Play



The Arena From Above



Count the Balls!



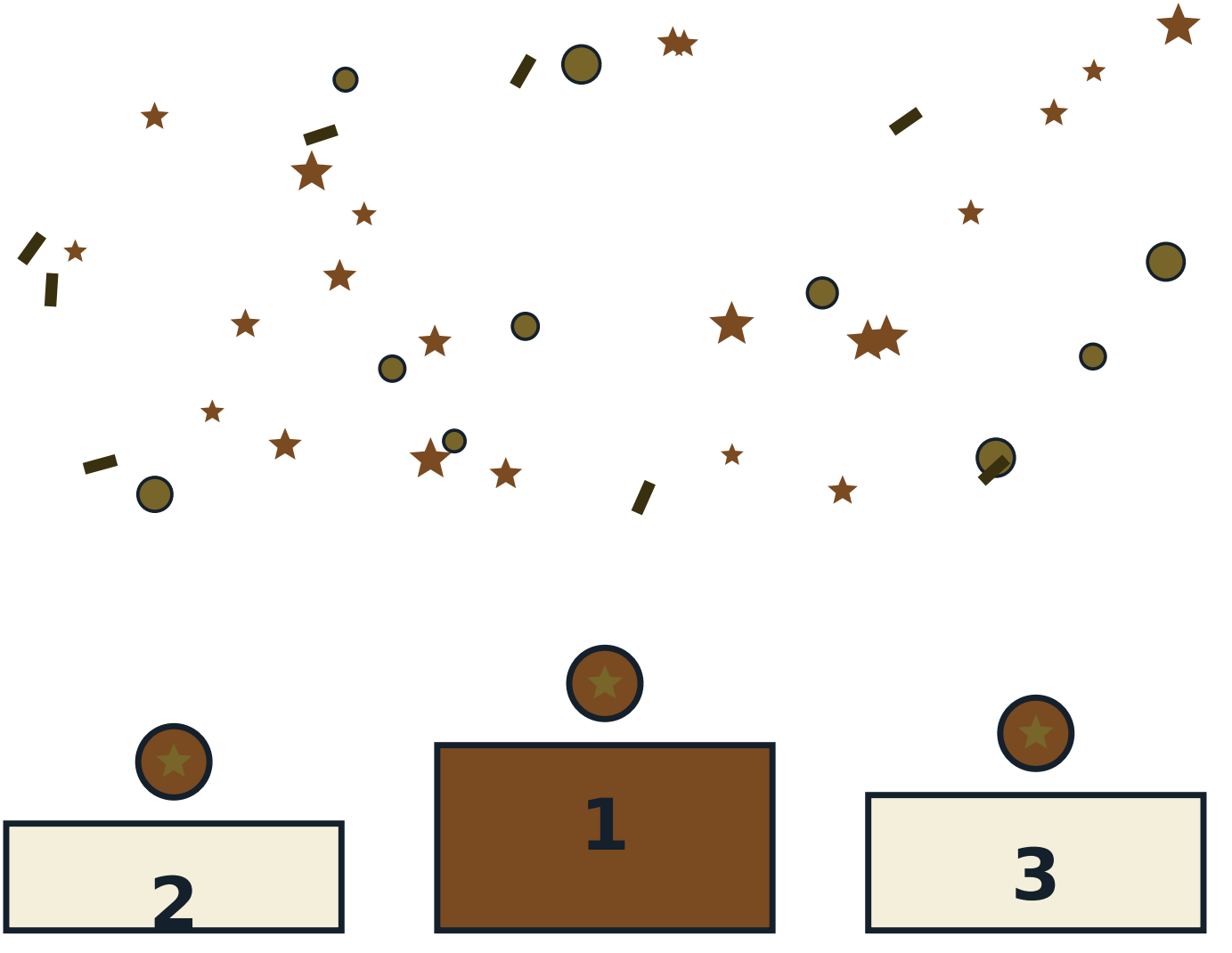
How many can you count? Write the number here: _____

My Favourite Part of Plunge for Distance

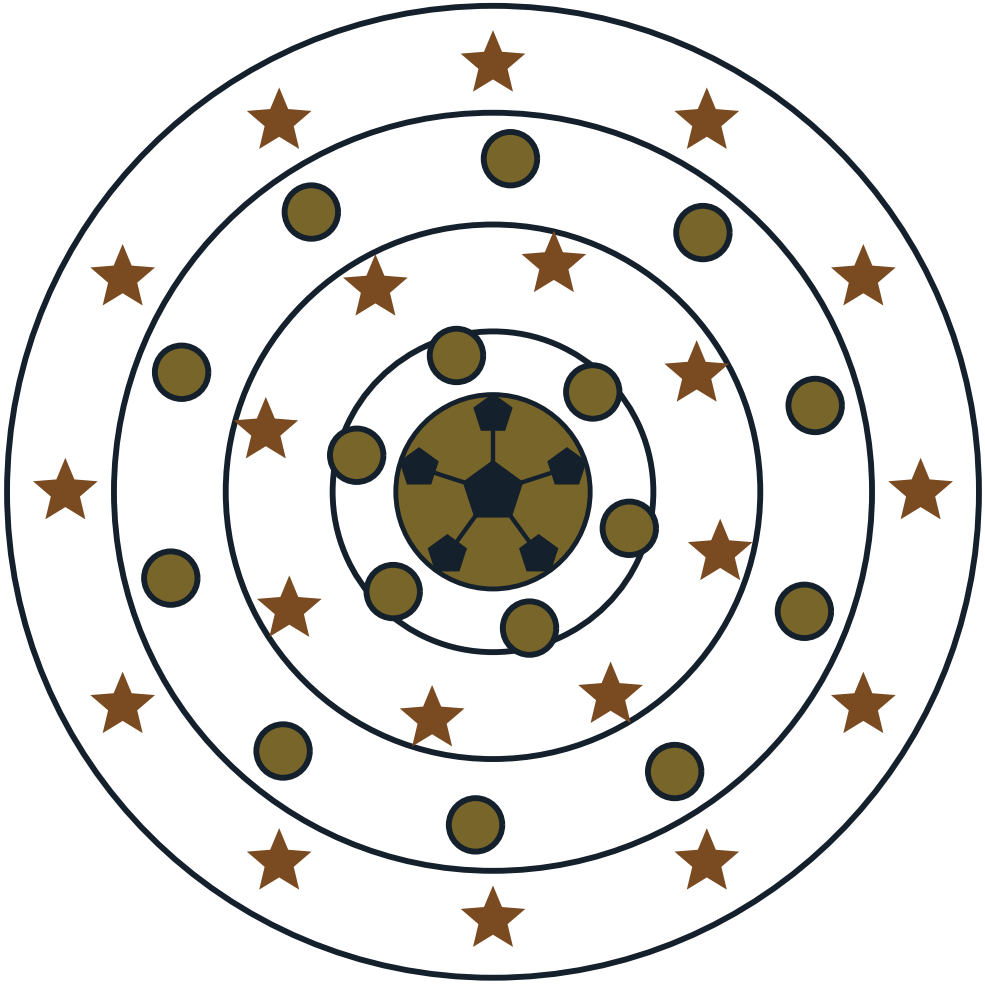
Gear Close-Up



Champions!



The Mandala of the Game



About This Book

Governing body: None — defunct event (1904 Olympic Games only). Laws edition the site's rules file follows: Historical definition in the 1920 Official Swimming Guide of the American Swimming Association, as quoted in published references; Olympic event 5 September 1904. 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 Tug of War
- The Cartoon Book of Club Swinging
- The Cartoon Book of Roque
- The Tug of War Colouring Book
- The Club Swinging Colouring Book
- The Roque Colouring Book

My Notes

Plunge for Distance

The Cartoon Book of Plunge for Distance — 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.

