THE CARTOON BOOK OF

SOAPBOX RACING



MACHINE

SPORT ON EARTH

Sport on Earth Books · The Motorsport Family

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

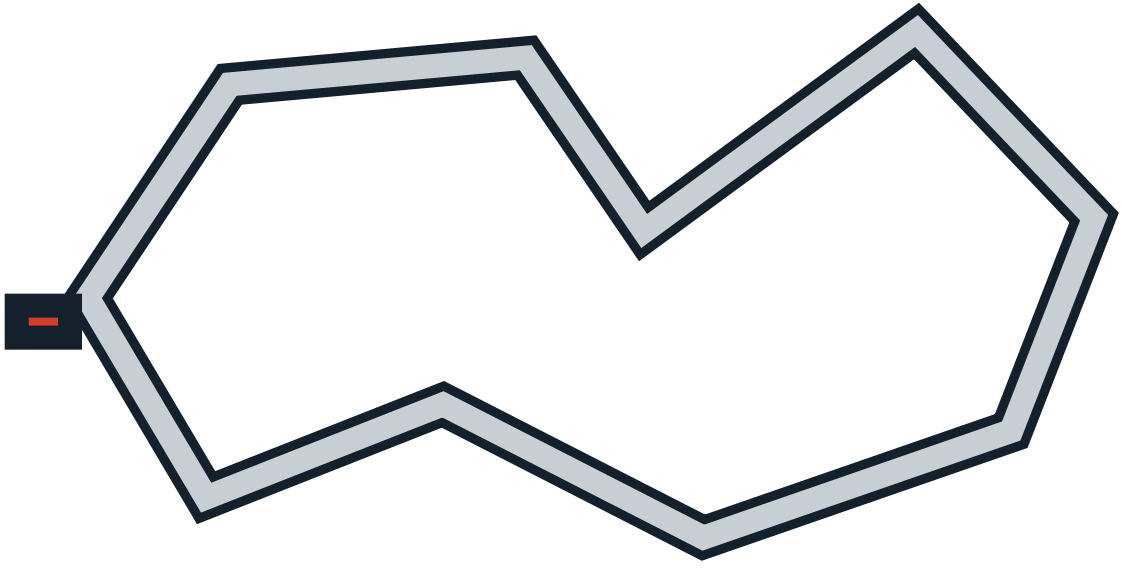
Meet Soapbox Racing!

Home-built gravity cars race down hills.



Where It Is Played

A paved downhill course; the championship course at Derby Downs, Akron is 989 ft (301 m) long.



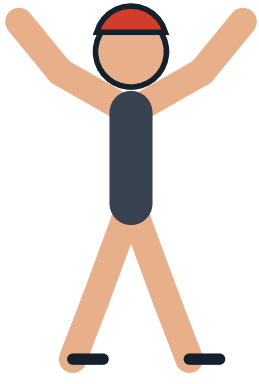
The Gear

An official AASBD kit car for your division (Stock, Super Stock or Masters) with steering and braking only — no engine, battery or stored-power device.



How It Starts

Find your nearest sanctioned local race, buy the official kit for your age division, build the car to the plan with an adult 'car handler', and pass inspection before race day.



How to Play

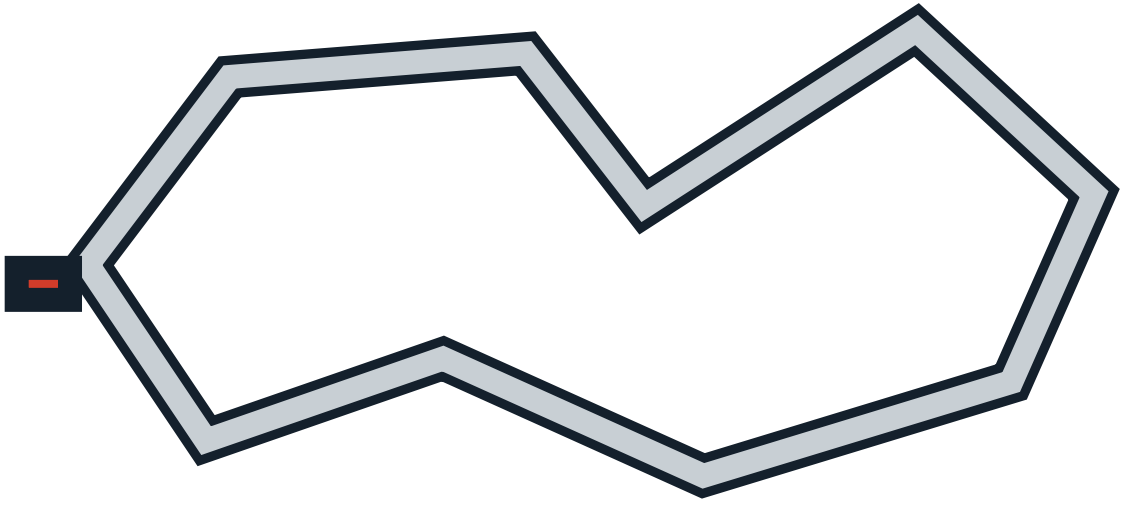
- Format: gravity racing — cars have no engine or stored power and race downhill against the clock / in heats, with divisions including Stock, Super Stock and Masters.
- Winner: the car and driver recording the fastest runs in their division win; the All-American finals are held at Derby Downs in Akron, Ohio.
- Conduct (Rule A-6.05): a participant, or a member of their party, must not attempt to gain an unfair advantage over another participant.
- Conduct (Rule A-6.06): a participant must not conceal or use any type of electronic and/or communication device in their car while racing.

More of the Game

- Conduct (Rule A-6.04): a participant must not obstruct or interfere with another participant's car.
- Wheels (Rule A-13.01, 2025 version): lubricants are not allowed; wheels must not be cleaned once the race has begun without the Race Director's approval.
- Cars: racers compete in official AASBD cars built from association kits and plans for their division, subject to inspection.
- Eligibility: the Derby is a youth programme, open to racers aged 7 to 20 in its divisions.

The Shape of a Match

Unpowered gravity cars race down a hill course in timed runs and heats by age division.

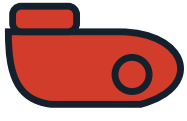


More of the Motorsport Family

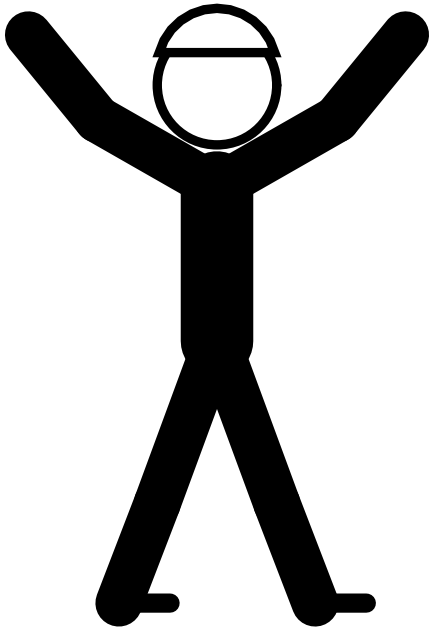
- Motorsport — Race cars or motorcycles for time or position across circuits, rallies, or ovals.
- NASCAR and IndyCar — North America's stock car and open-wheel series.
- MotoGP — Top class of grand prix motorcycle racing.
- World Rally Championship — Cars race against the clock on closed roads.
- Powerboat and Jet Ski Racing — Water racing including F1H2O and electric E1.
- Monster Truck Racing — Stadium shows with oversized trucks, led by Monster Jam.

A Note on the Rules

Soapbox racing (gravity racing) is governed at its flagship by Red Bull Soapbox Race's authored format (handmade gravity carts judged on speed, creativity and showmanship) and at its serious end by gravity-racing associations' technical rules (weight, braking, steering safety). Neither tradition has dated landmark law changes. No major documented rule change is carried for soapbox racing.

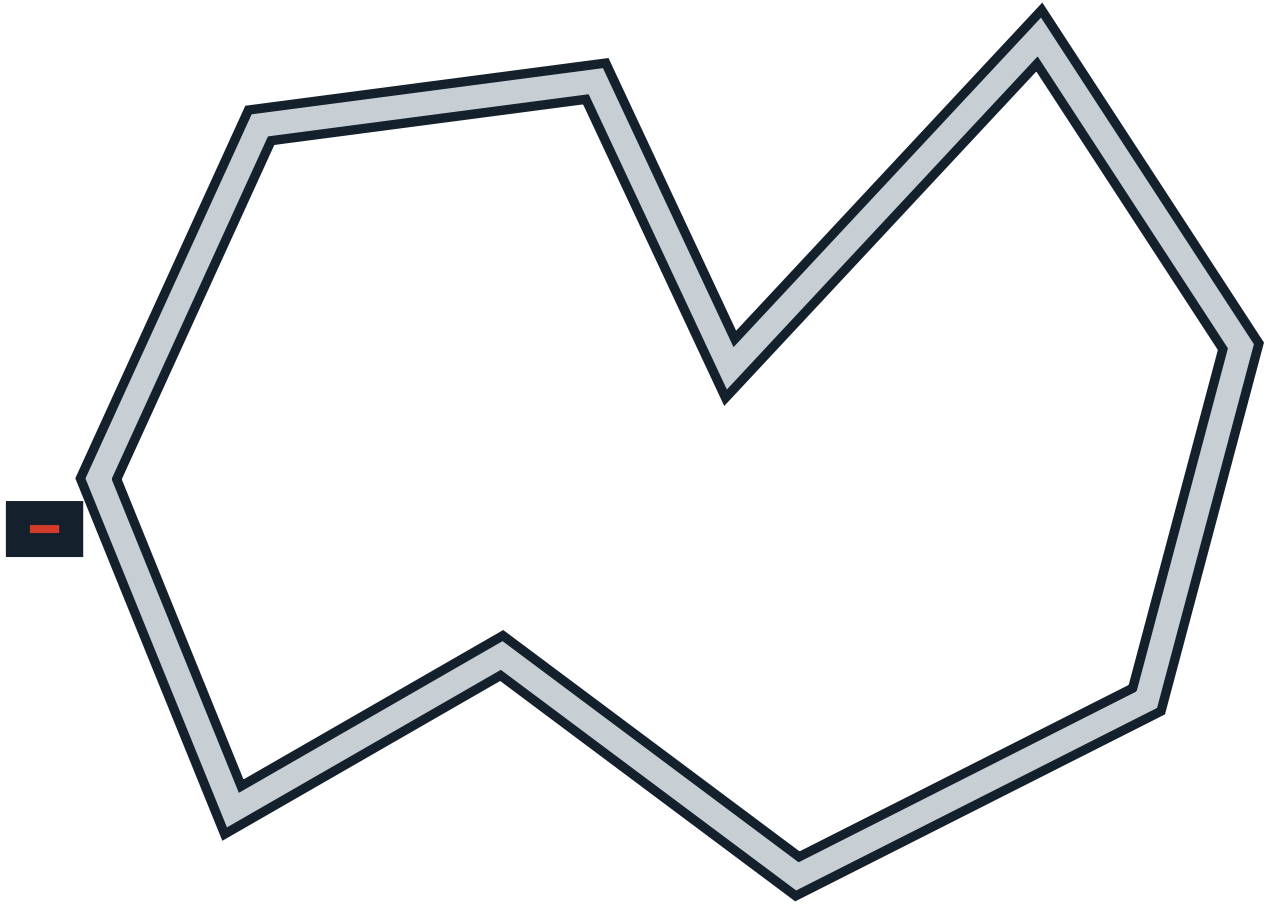


Colour the Action

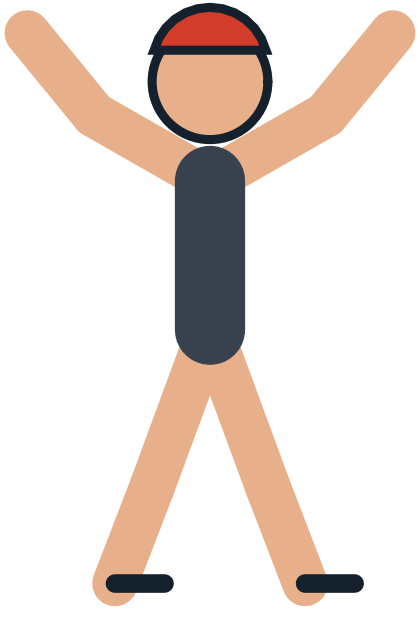


Psst — this page is a colouring page!

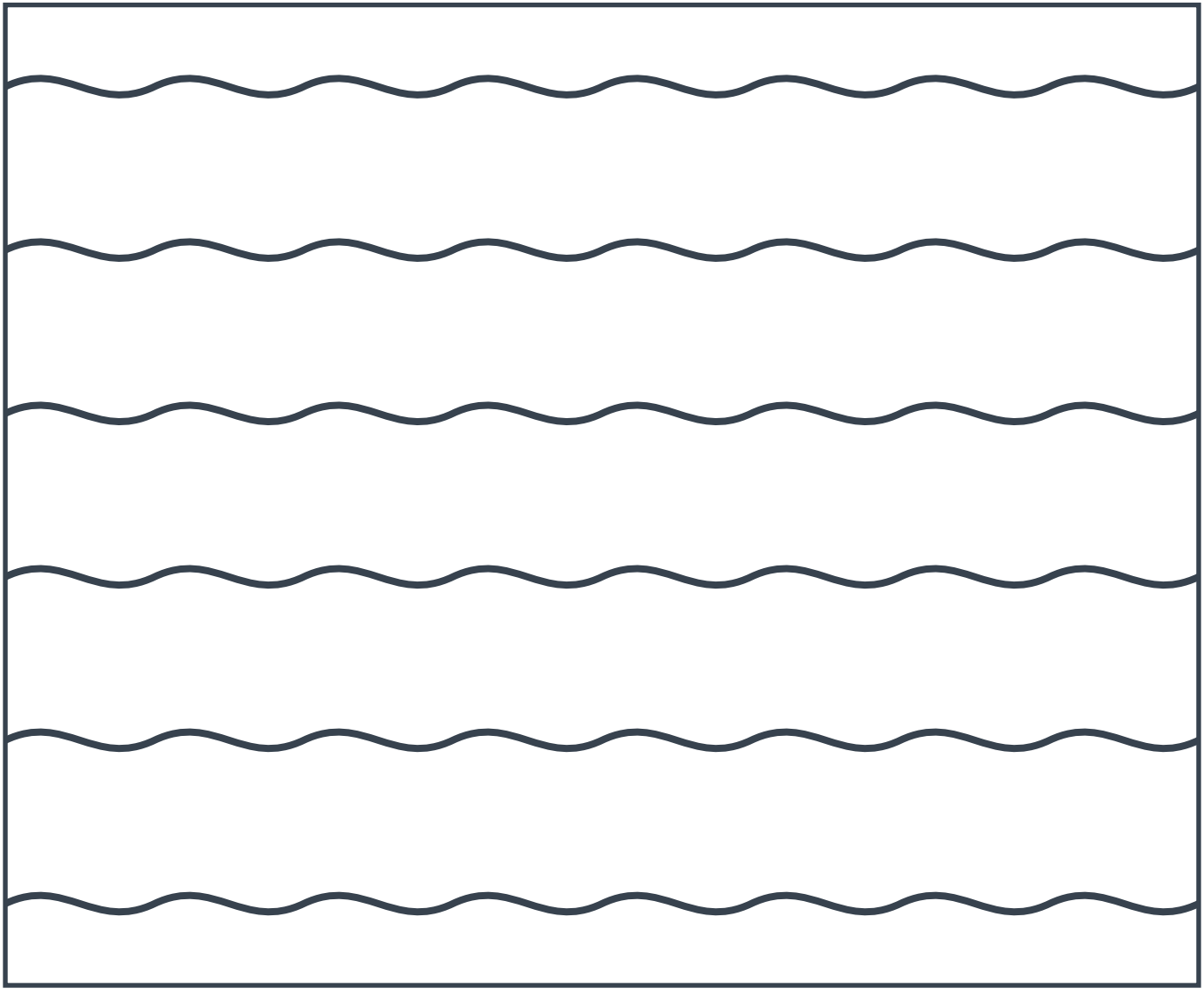
The Sport Today



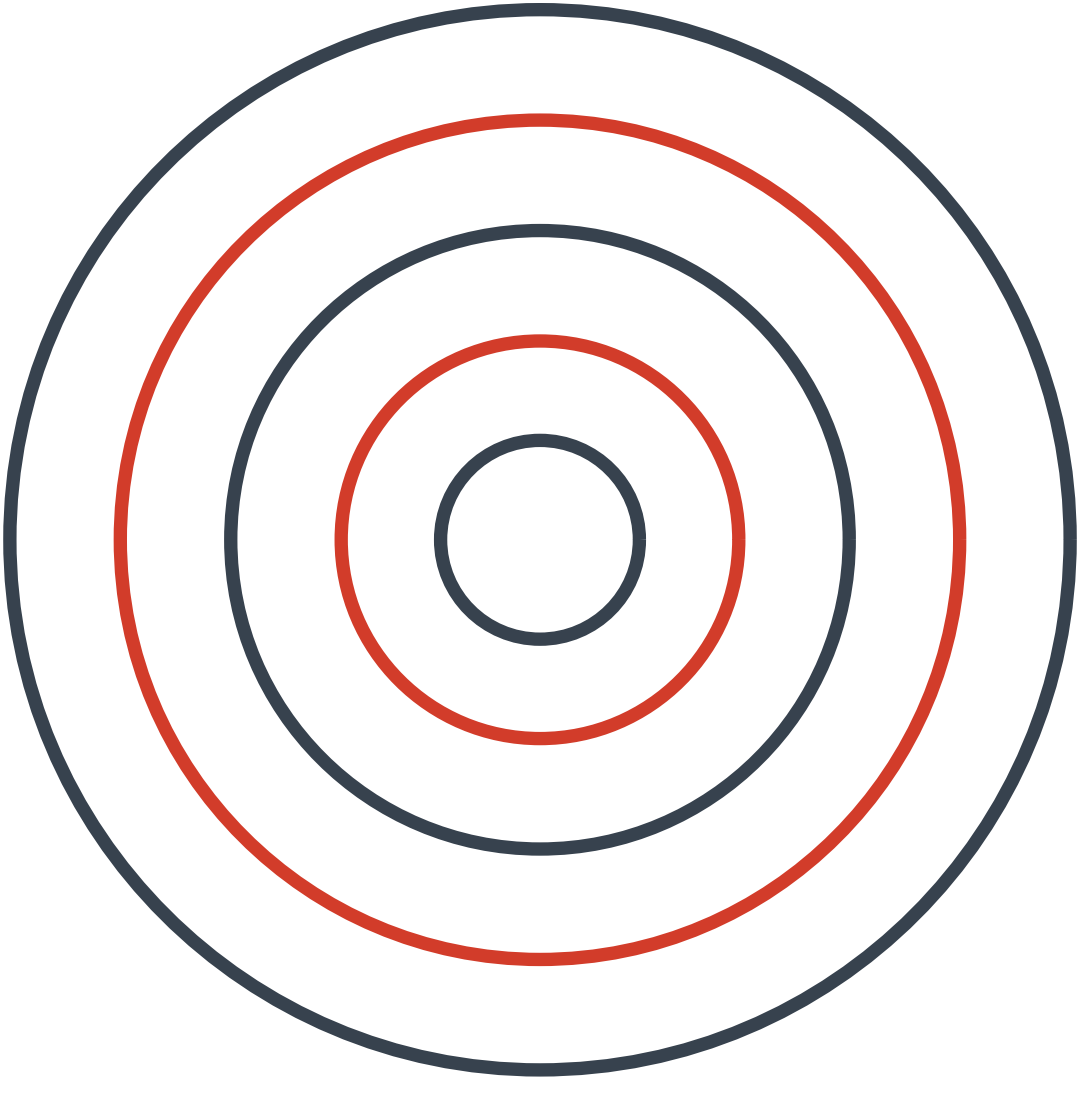
At School and College



Play It Near You



Through the Year



The Motorsport 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.

- Motorsport — Race cars or motorcycles for time or position across circuits, rallies, or ovals.
- NASCAR and IndyCar — North America's stock car and open-wheel series.
- MotoGP — Top class of grand prix motorcycle racing.
- World Rally Championship — Cars race against the clock on closed roads.
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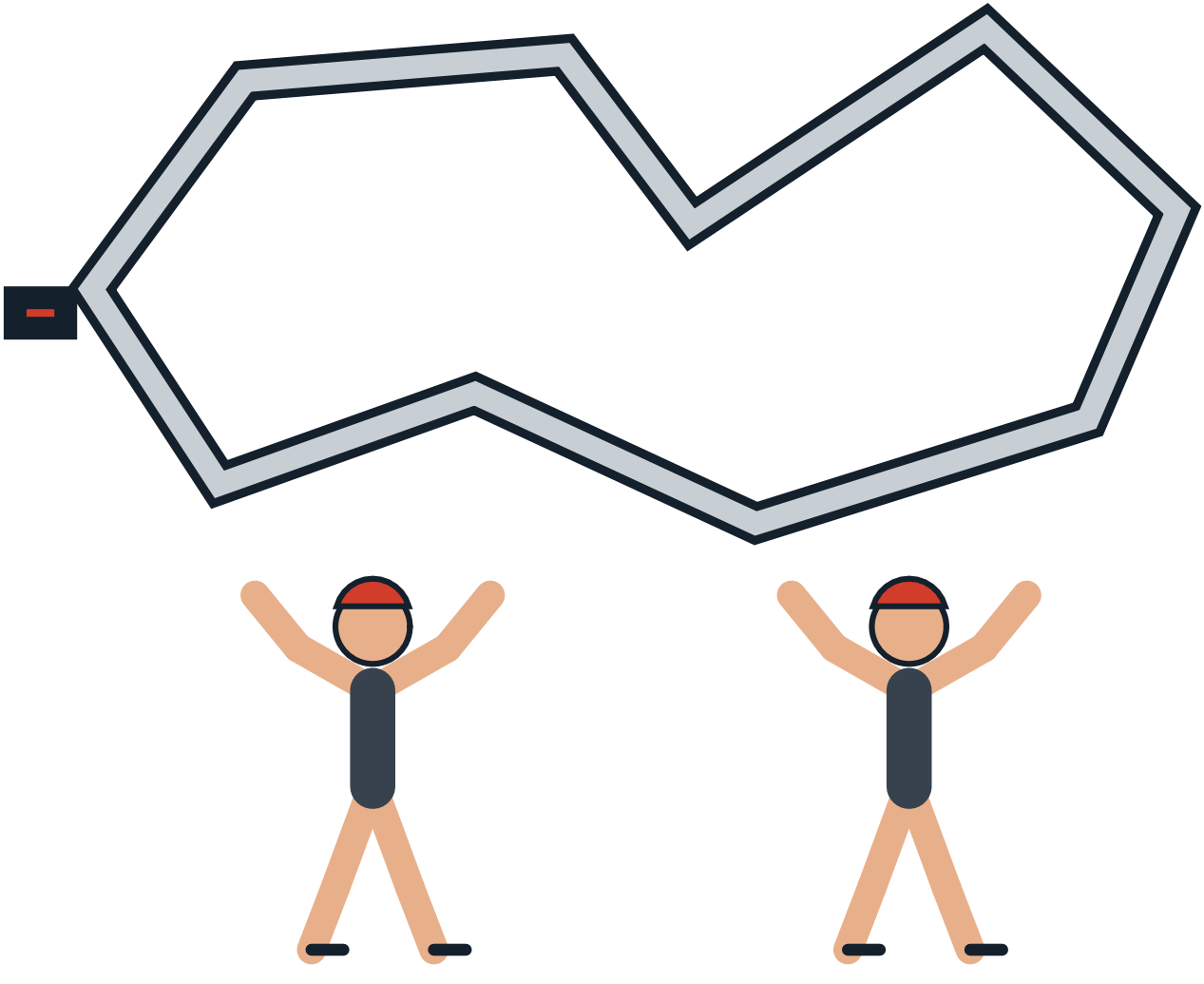
Game Day!

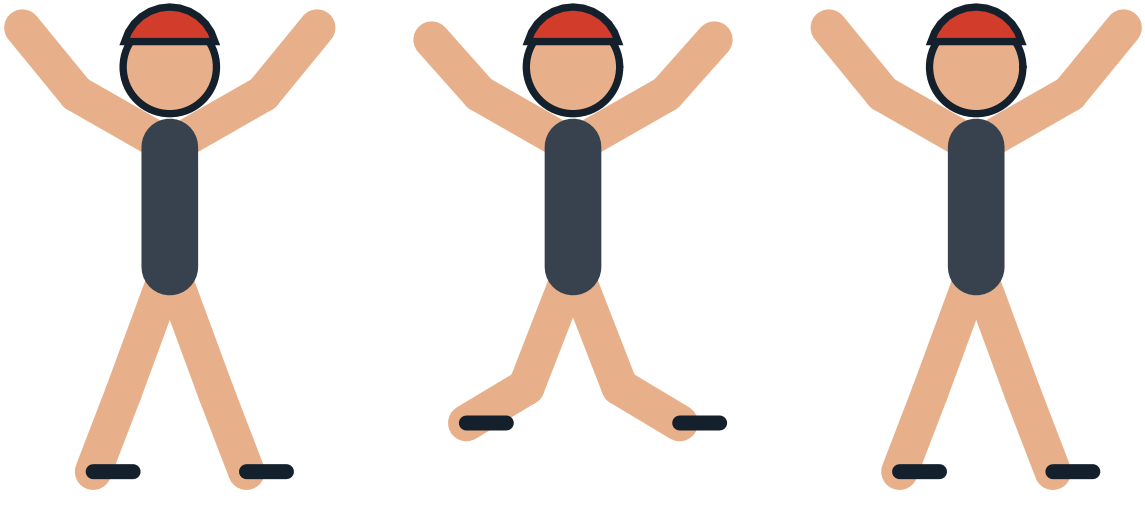


The Sport on Earth Mark

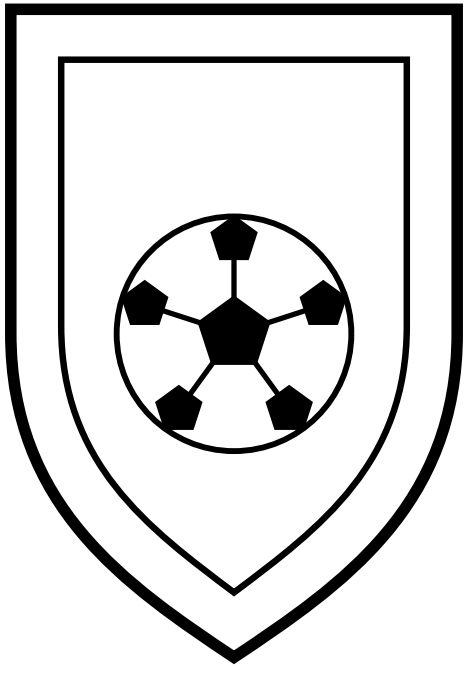
Every sport on Sport on Earth carries its own original mark, drawn for the site. Here is this sport's.



Moves of the Game



Design a Badge

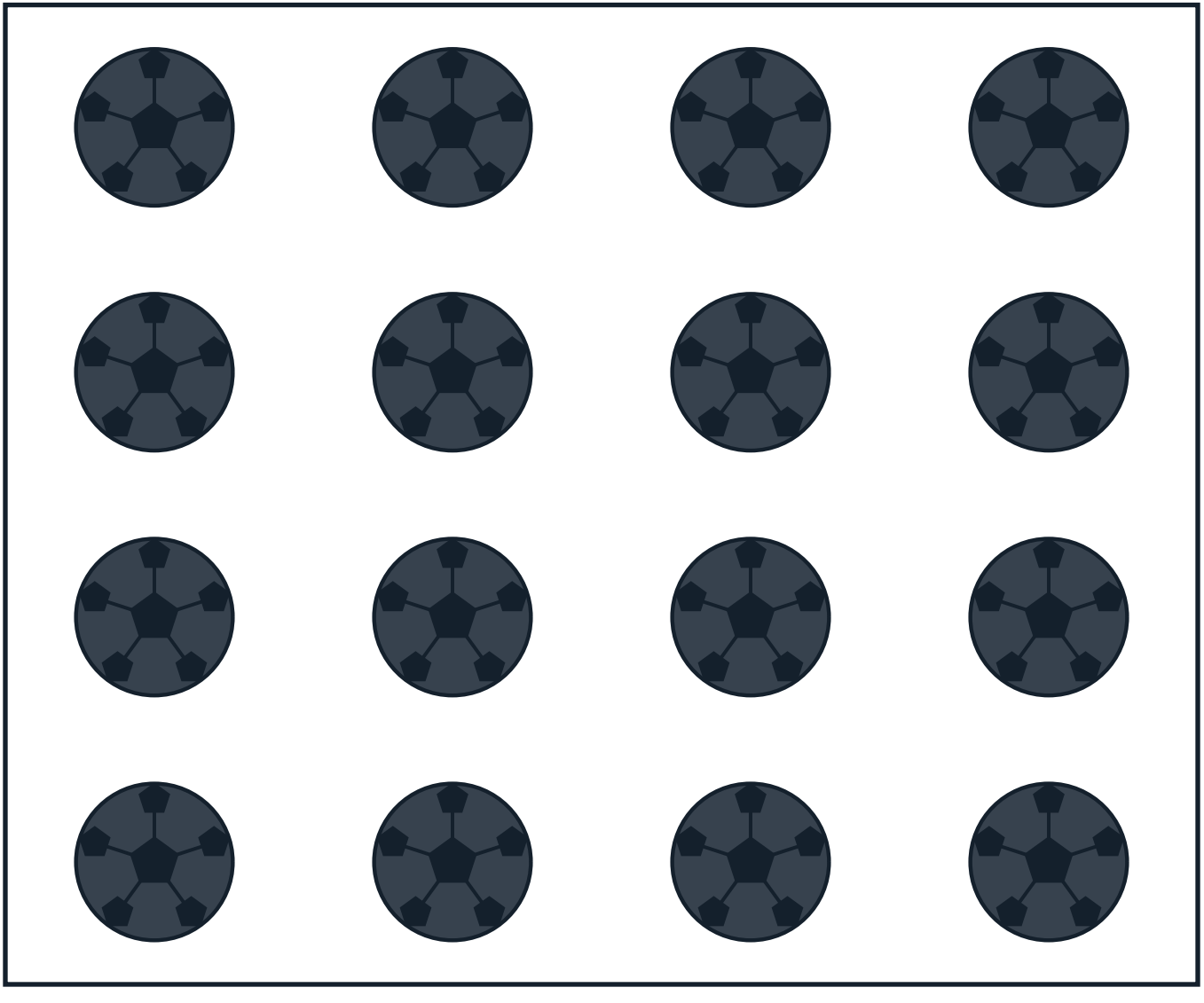


Draw and colour a badge for your own team.

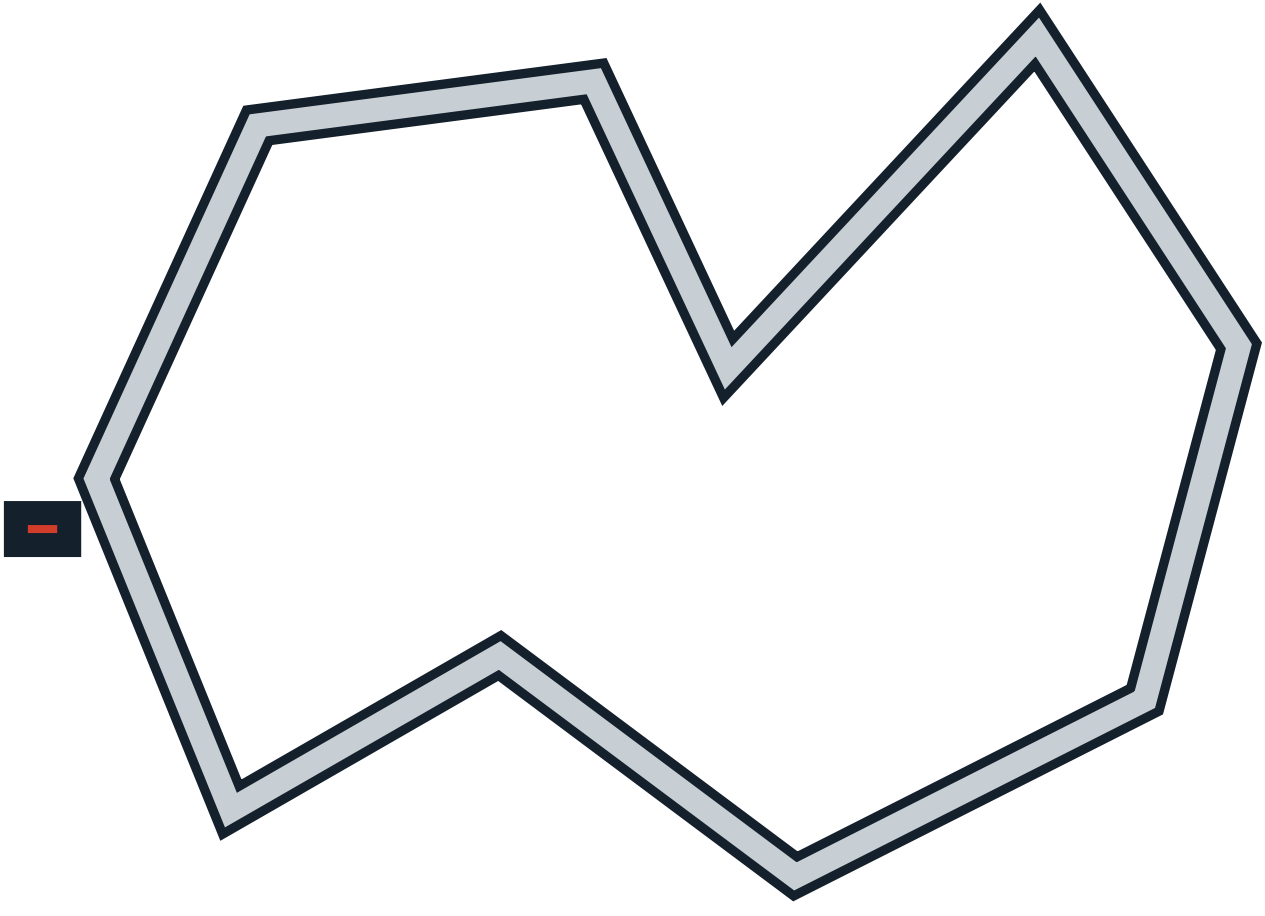
The Gear Parade



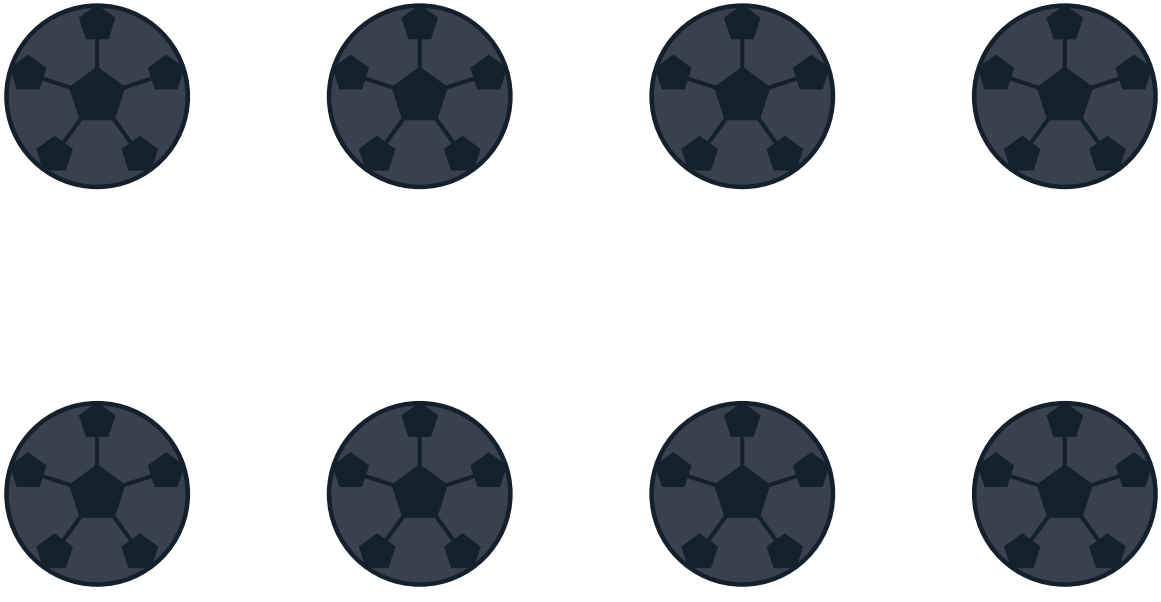
Pattern Play



The Arena From Above



Count the Balls!



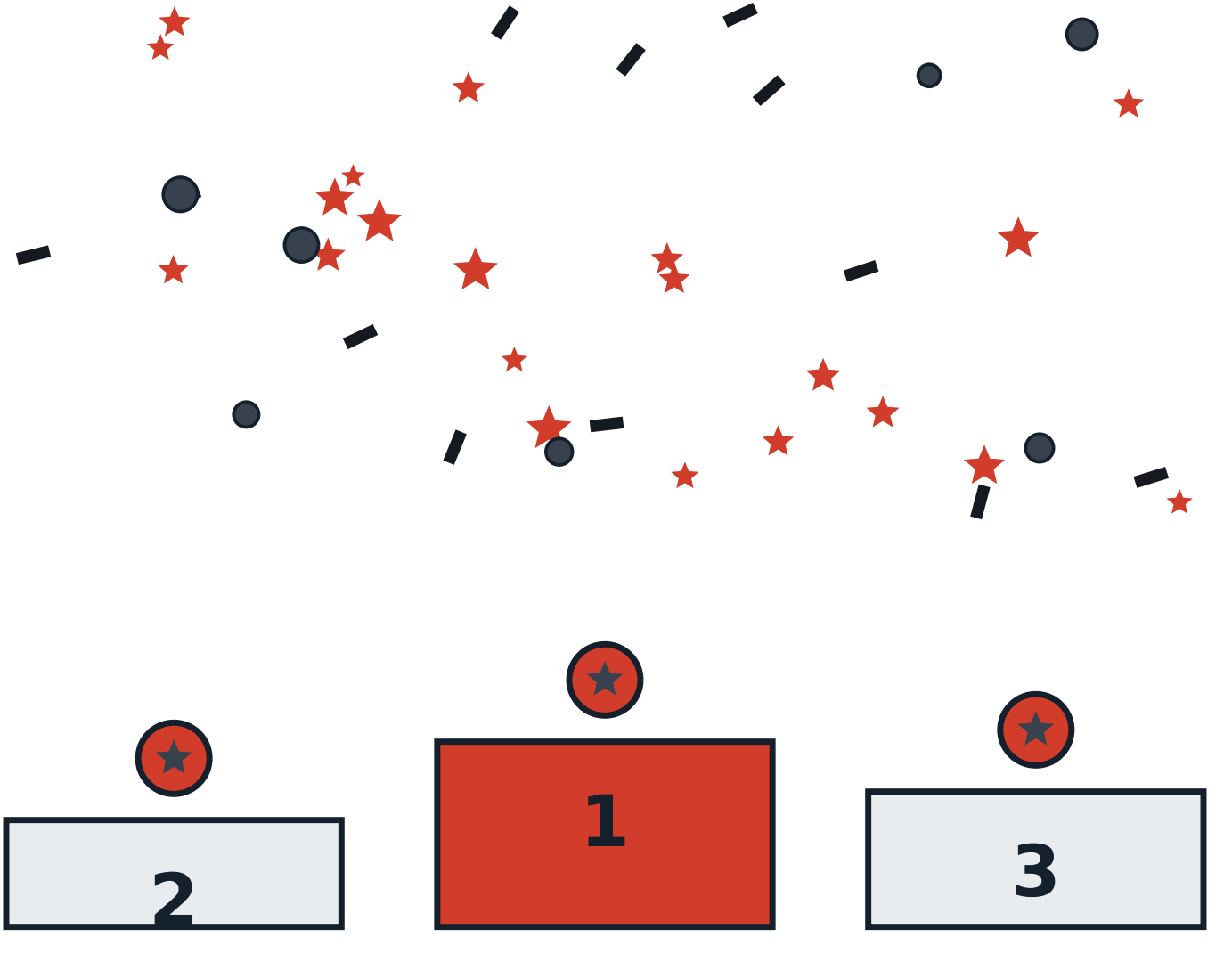
How many can you count? Write the number here: _____

My Favourite Part of Soapbox Racing

Gear Close-Up



Champions!



The Mandala of the Game



About This Book

Governing body: All-American Soap Box Derby (AASBD), Akron, Ohio. Laws edition the site's rules file follows: AASBD Race Rules, updated February 2025 (Rulebook Updates & Clarifications, soapboxderby.org). 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 Motorsport
- The Cartoon Book of NASCAR and IndyCar
- The Cartoon Book of MotoGP
- The Cartoon Book of World Rally Championship
- The Cartoon Book of Powerboat and Jet Ski Racing
- The Cartoon Book of Monster Truck Racing
- The Motorsport Colouring Book
- The NASCAR and IndyCar Colouring Book

My Notes

Soapbox Racing

The Cartoon Book of Soapbox 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.

