THE CARTOON BOOK OF

BOCCE AND PÉTANQUE



TARGET & PRECISION

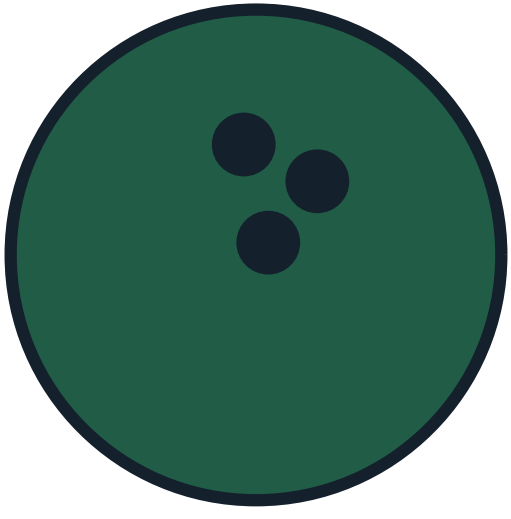
SPORT ON EARTH

Sport on Earth Books · The Target & precision Family

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

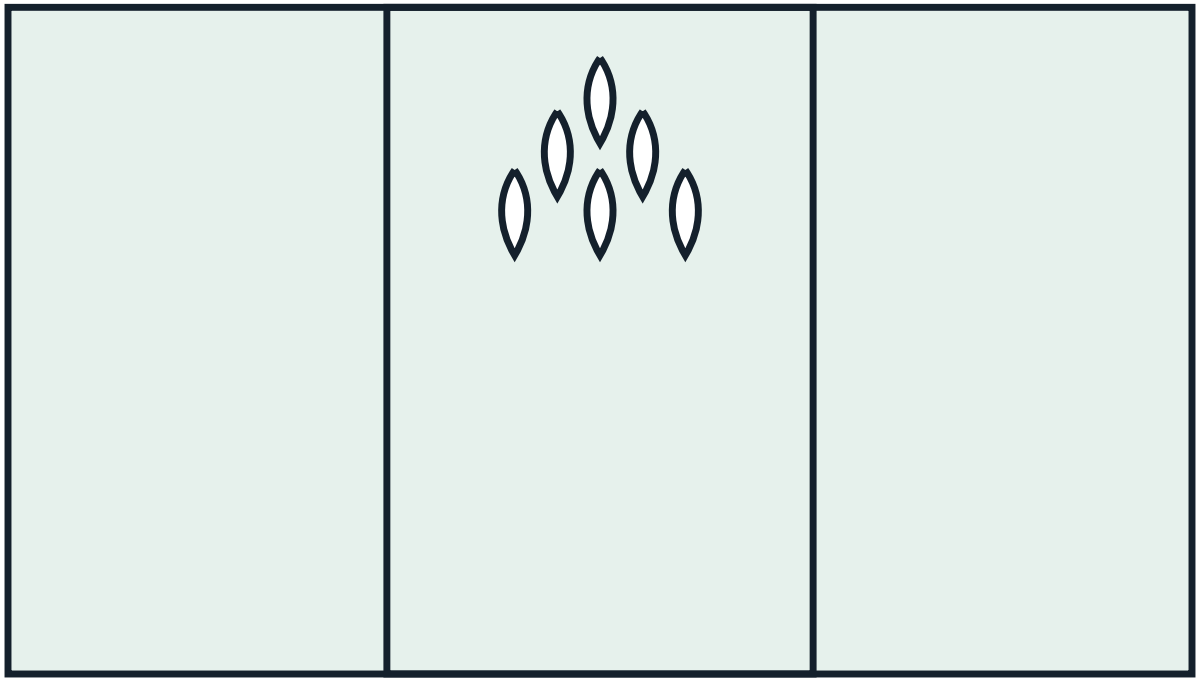
Meet Bocce and Pétanque!

Throw balls close to a small target ball.



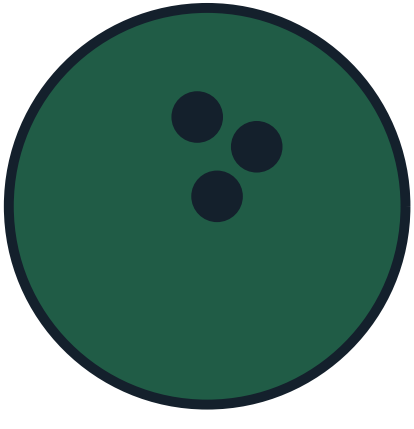
Where It Is Played

Bocce: an official USBF court is 86.92 ft long by 13.12 ft wide (26.5 by 4 m), with a foul line recommended 13 ft from the back wall. Pétanque: a lane/terrain with a 35–50 cm throwing circle and the jack at 6–10 m.



The Gear

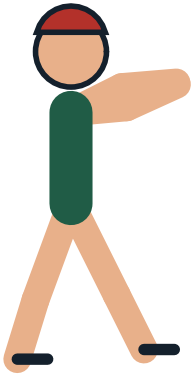
Bocce: eight balls (four per team) plus a pallino. Pétanque: hollow metal boules (650–800 g) plus a 30 mm wooden or approved synthetic jack.





How It Starts

Flip a coin for first throw: deliver the pallino/jack, then alternate or keep throwing while your team does not hold the closest ball, counting points when all balls are played.



How to Play

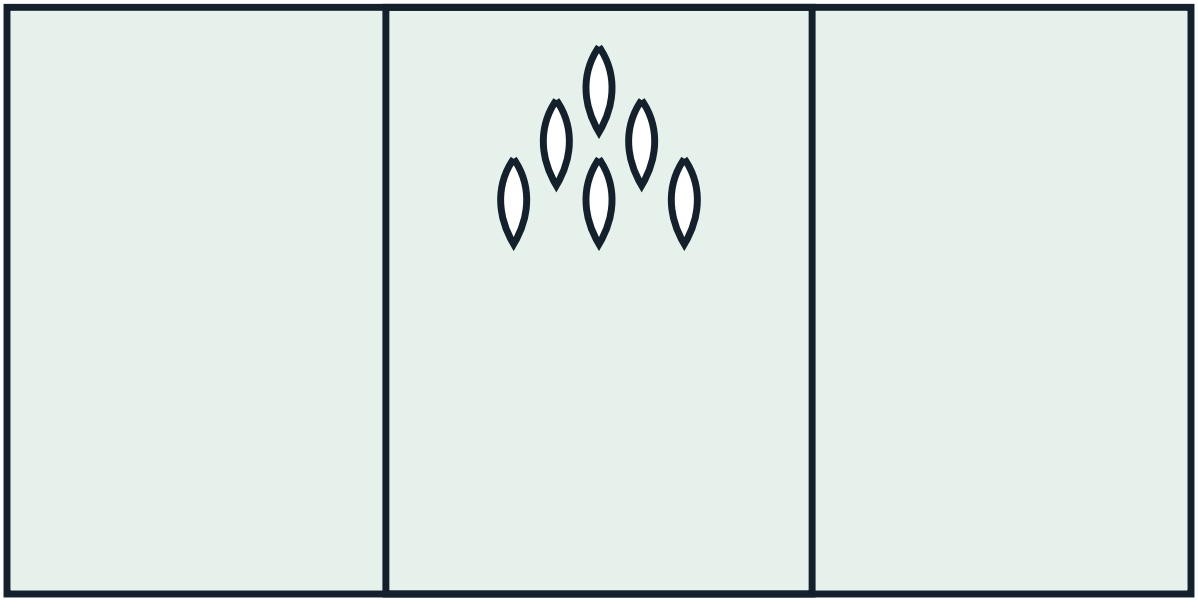
- Bocce format: singles (4 balls per player), doubles (2 balls per player), triples or foursomes, using eight balls — four per team in different colours — plus a small target ball, the pallino (jack).
- Bocce scoring: at the end of a frame the team with balls closer to the pallino than the opponent's closest ball scores one point for each such ball; if the closest balls are tied, the last team to roll rolls again until the tie is broken.
- In bocce the team that does not hold the point keeps rolling until it establishes a point or runs out of balls, and players may step on but not completely over the foul line before releasing the pallino or a ball.
- Pétanque format: triples 3 v 3 (2 boules per player), doubles 2 v 2 or singles 1 v 1 (3 boules per player); no other formula is allowed (FIPJP Article 1).

More of the Game

- Pétanque scoring: only the team with the boule closest to the jack scores, one point per boule closer than the opponent's best boule, and a game is played to 13 points (11 in some league/qualifying play).
- Pétanque play: boules are thrown from inside a circle 35–50 cm in diameter (a rigid prefabricated circle is 50 cm), with feet entirely inside the circle and not lifted until the boule touches the ground.
- The pétanque jack is thrown 6–10 m from the circle, must stay at least 50 cm from any obstacle and the end line, and must remain visible from the circle.
- Pétanque boules must be hollow metal, 7.05–8 cm in diameter and 650–800 g; the jack is 30 mm in diameter and weighs 10–18 g.

The Shape of a Match

Two related point-and-shoot bowling games: in bocce, teams roll balls down a court toward a thrown pallino; in pétanque, players throw metal boules from a standing circle toward a jack 6–10 m away. Closest balls score.

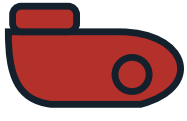


More of the Target & precision Family

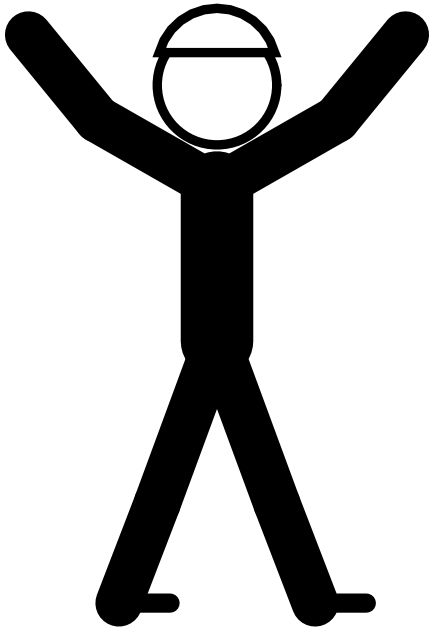
- Golf — Strike a ball into a series of holes in the fewest strokes. A round is typically 18 holes.
- Darts — Throw darts at a board; the PDC circuit is hugely popular in Europe.
- Snooker and Pool — Cue sports with a pro world tour for snooker.
- Ten-pin Bowling — Roll a ball to knock down pins.
- Disc Golf — Golf played with flying discs and baskets.
- Archery — Target shooting with bows, an Olympic sport.

A Note on the Rules

Bocce (governed by the CBI and national bodies) and pétanque (governed by the FIPJP) are codified boules traditions — boules thrown toward a target ball, scoring by proximity — stable across the modern era, with pétanque's formalisation dating to 1907 in La Ciotat. No major documented rule change is carried for bocce and pétanque.

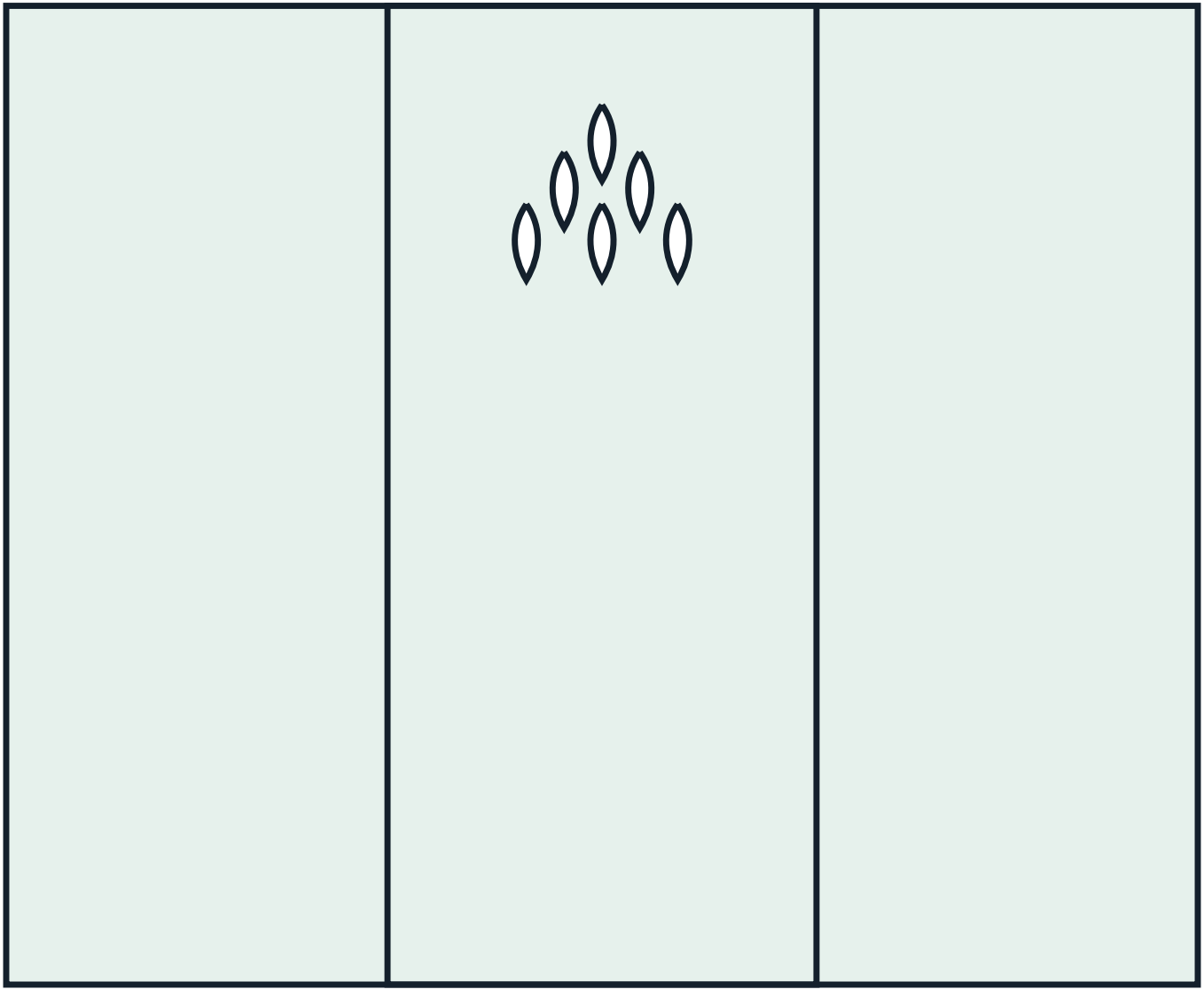


Colour the Action

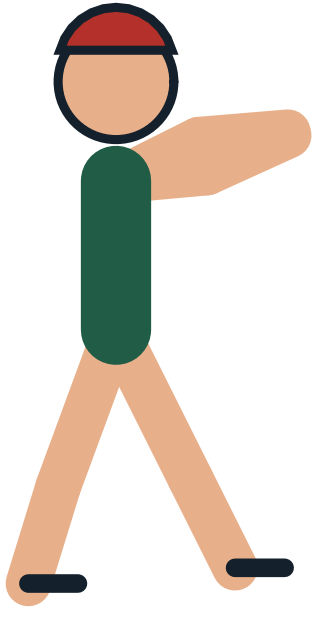


Psst — this page is a colouring page!

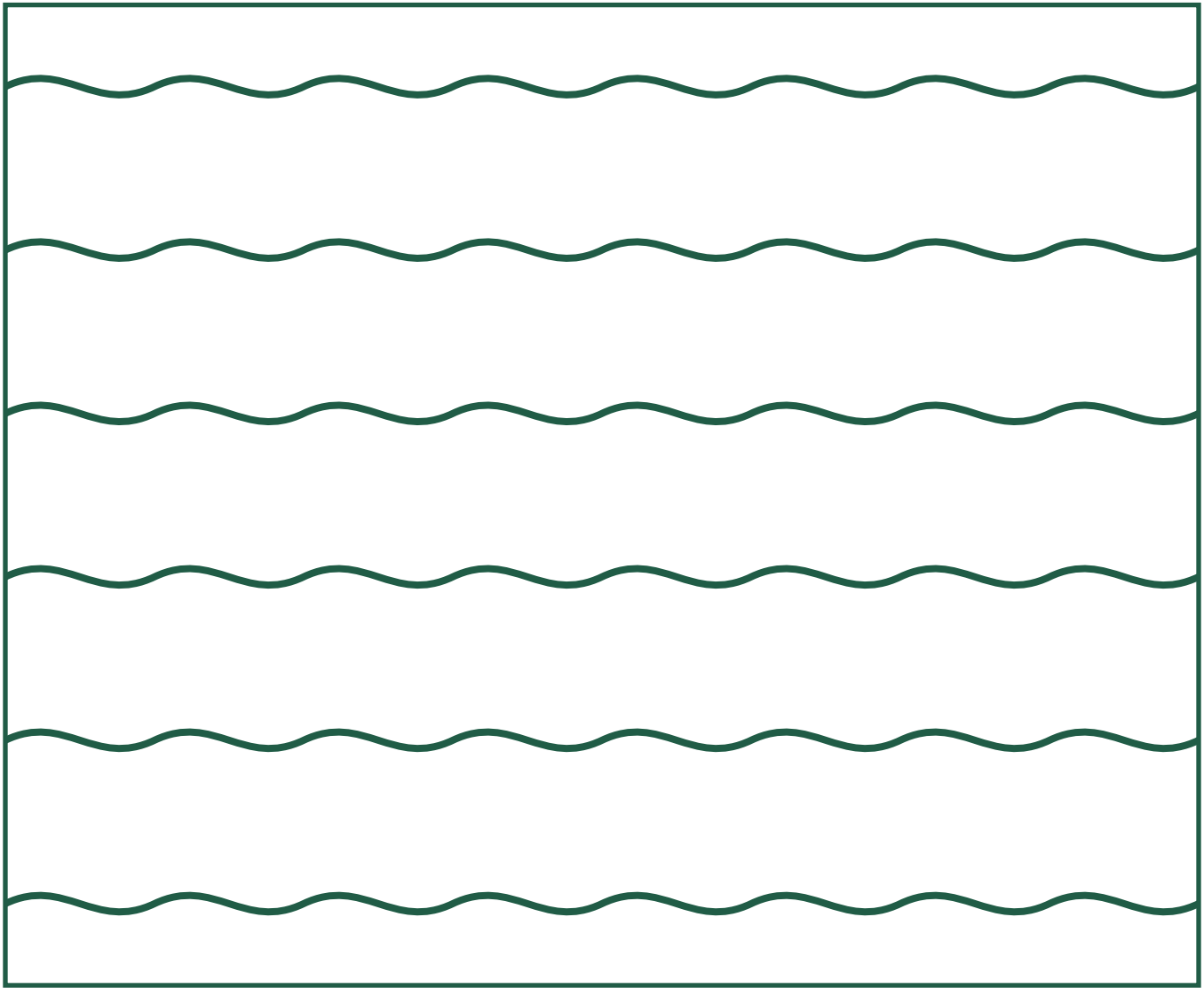
The Sport Today



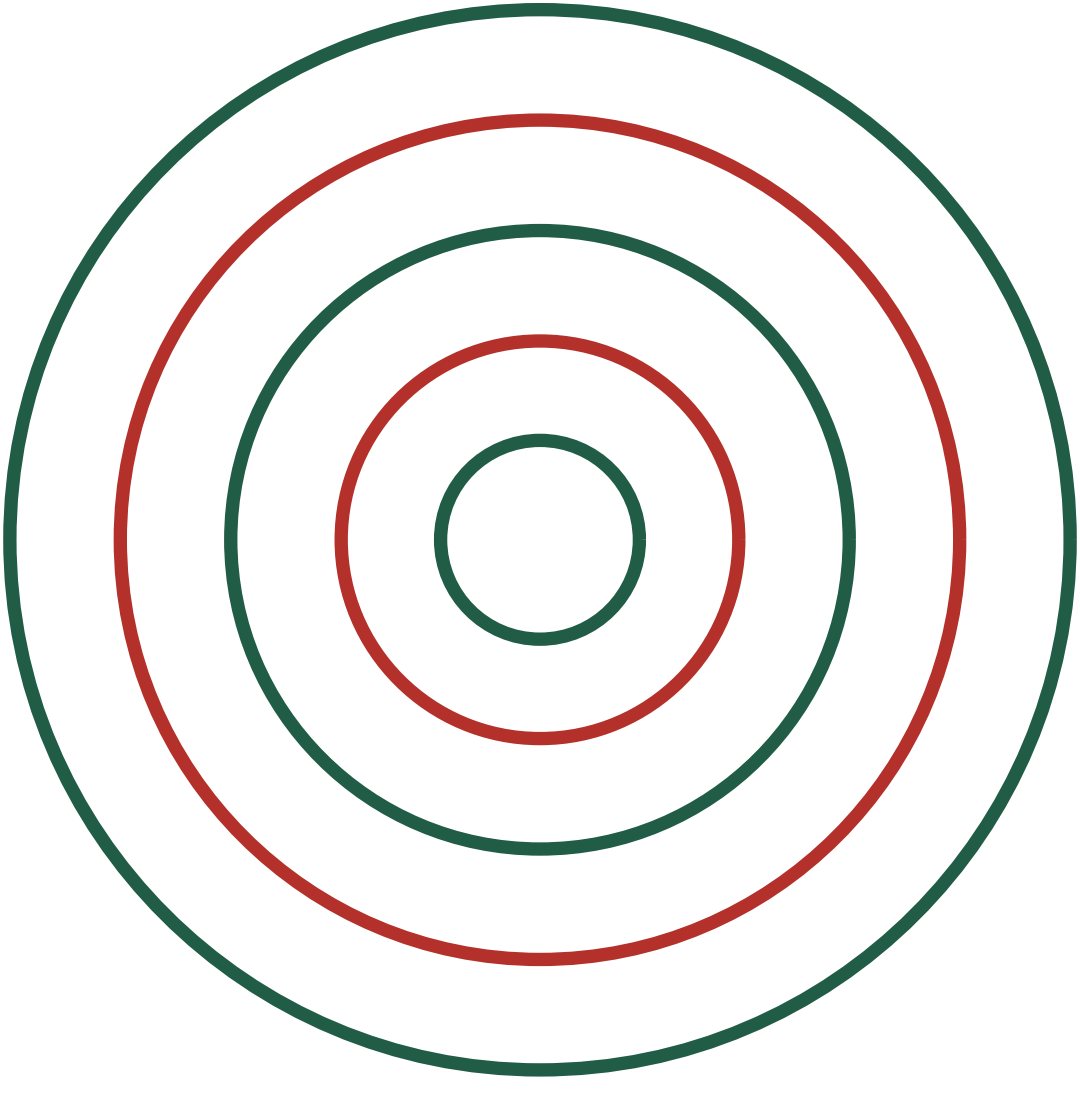
At School and College



Play It Near You



Through the Year

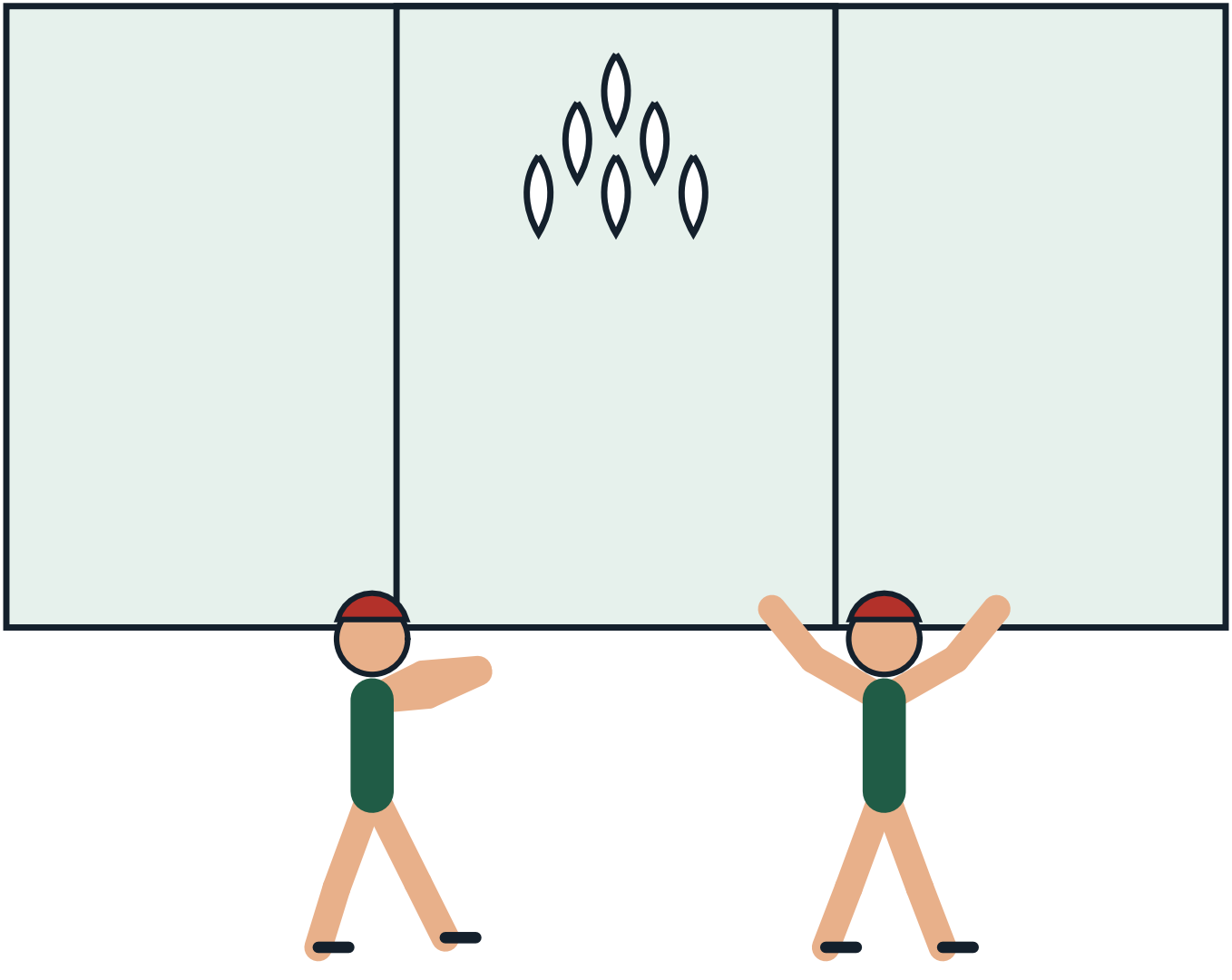


The Target & precision Family

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.

- Golf — Strike a ball into a series of holes in the fewest strokes. A round is typically 18 holes.
- Darts — Throw darts at a board; the PDC circuit is hugely popular in Europe.
- Snooker and Pool — Cue sports with a pro world tour for snooker.
- Ten-pin Bowling — Roll a ball to knock down pins.
- Disc Golf — Golf played with flying discs and baskets.

Game Day!

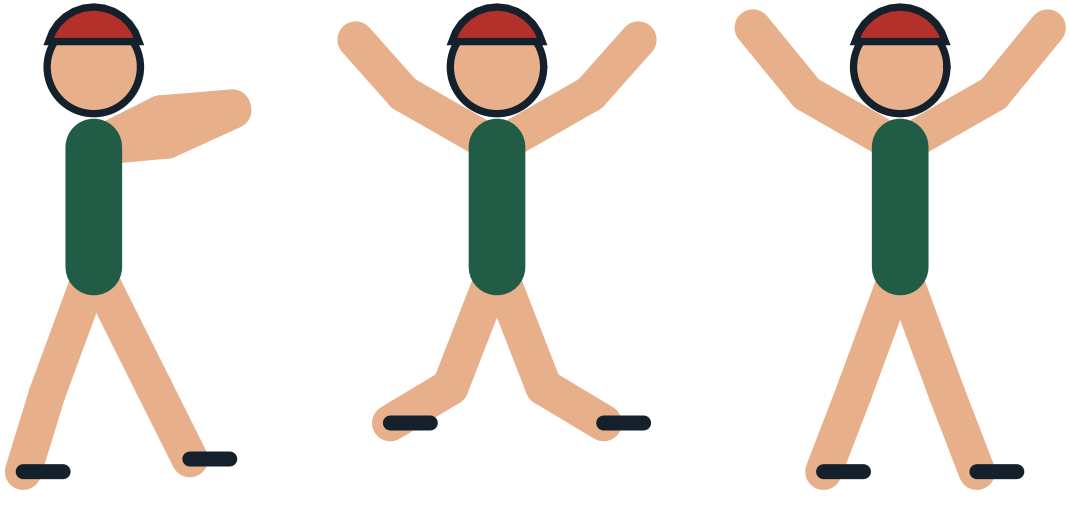


The Sport on Earth Mark

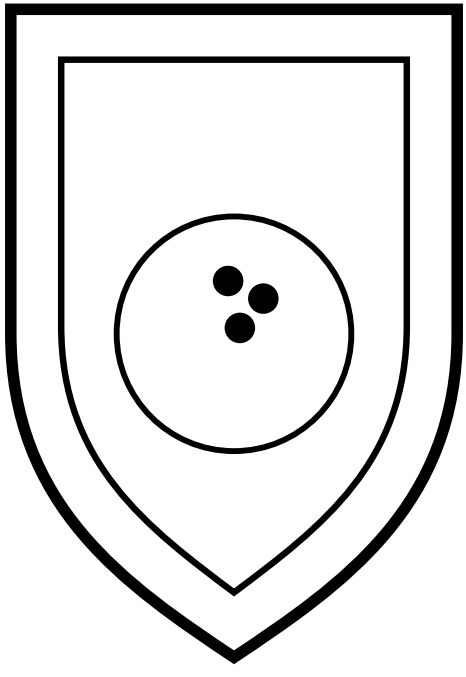
Every sport on Sport on Earth carries its own original mark, drawn for the site. Here is this sport's.



Moves of the Game

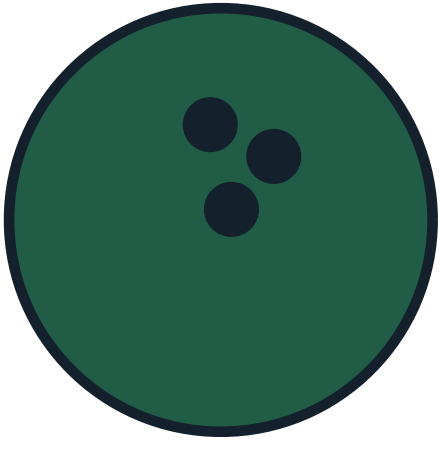


Design a Badge



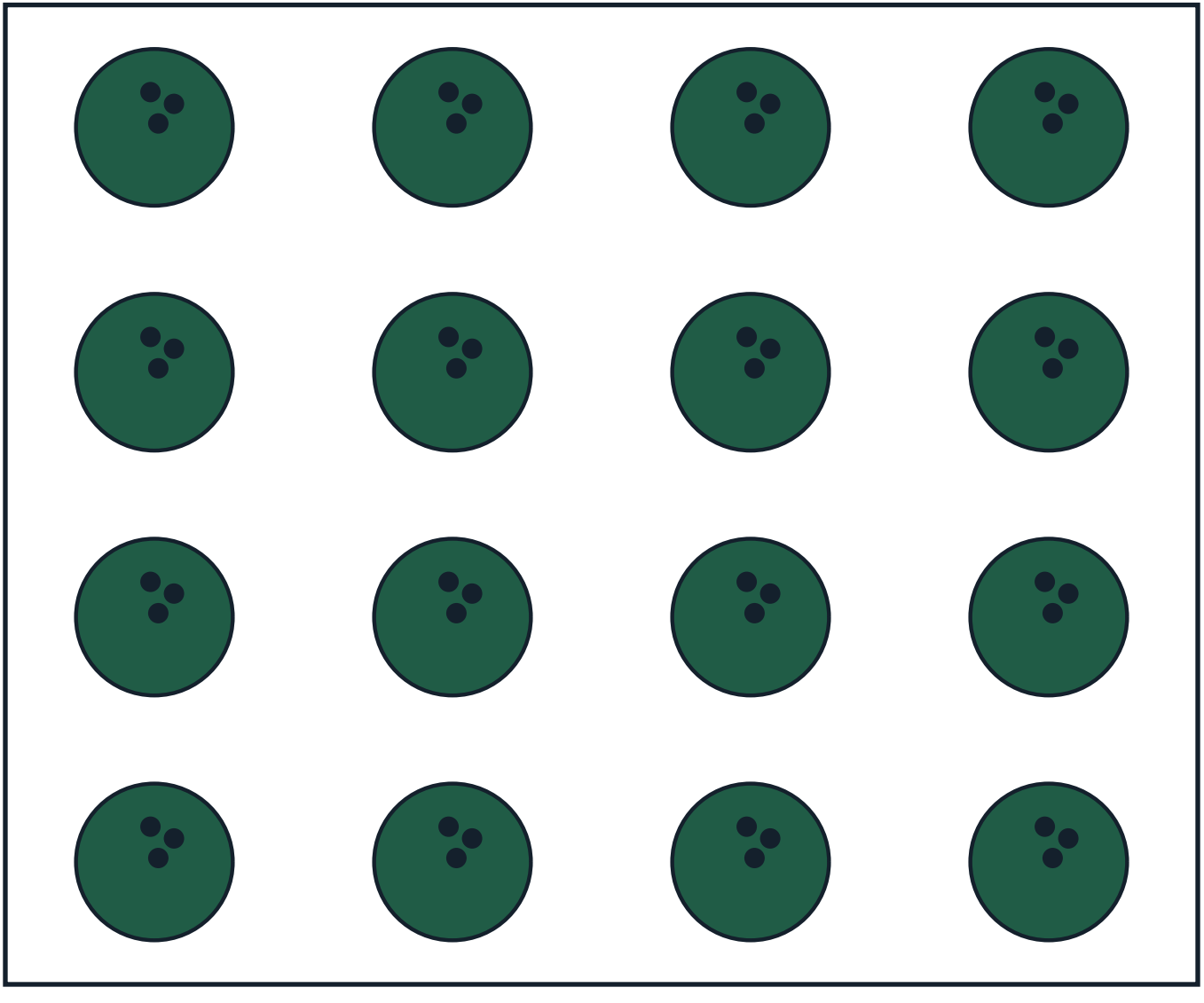
Draw and colour a badge for your own team.

The Gear Parade

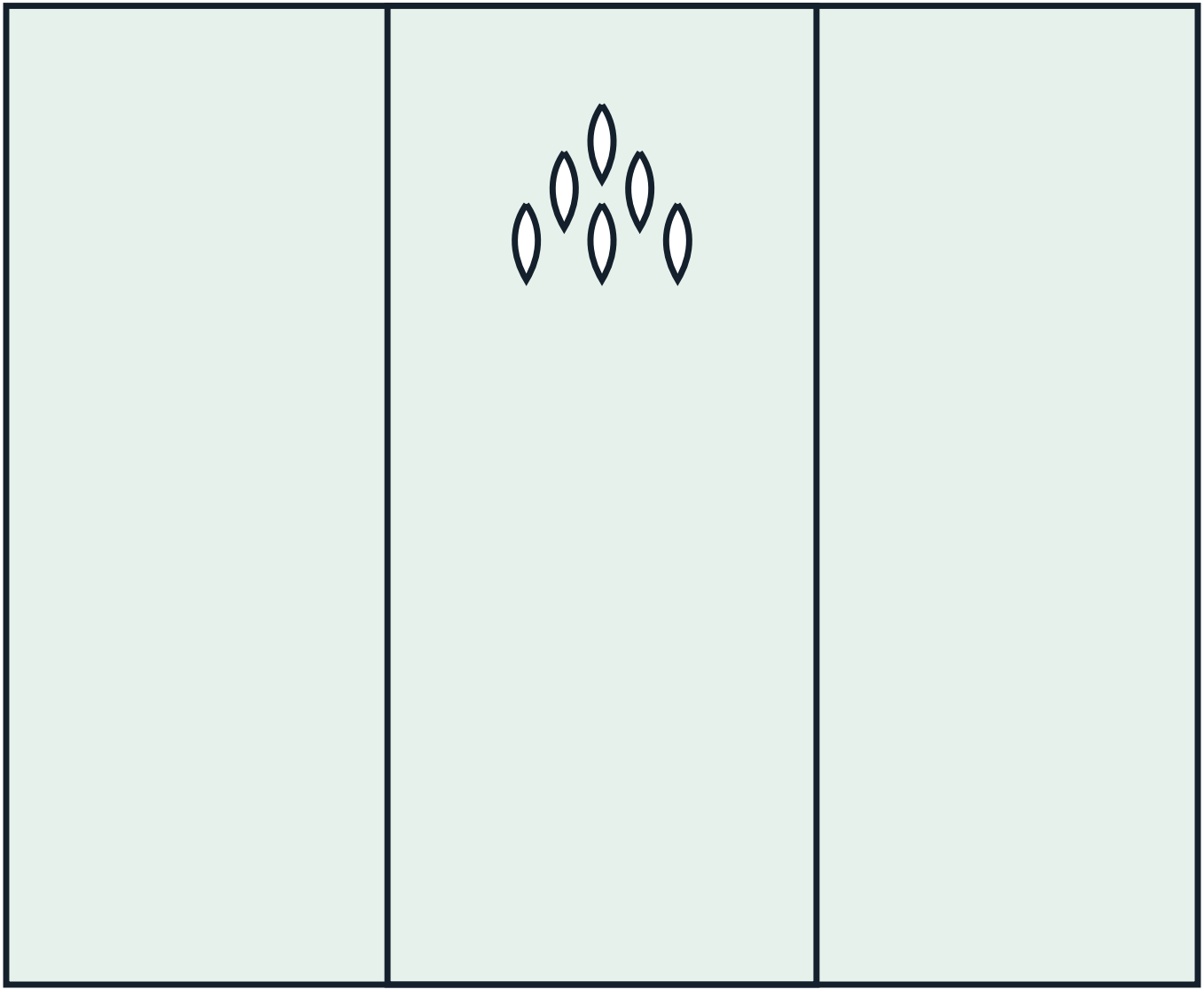




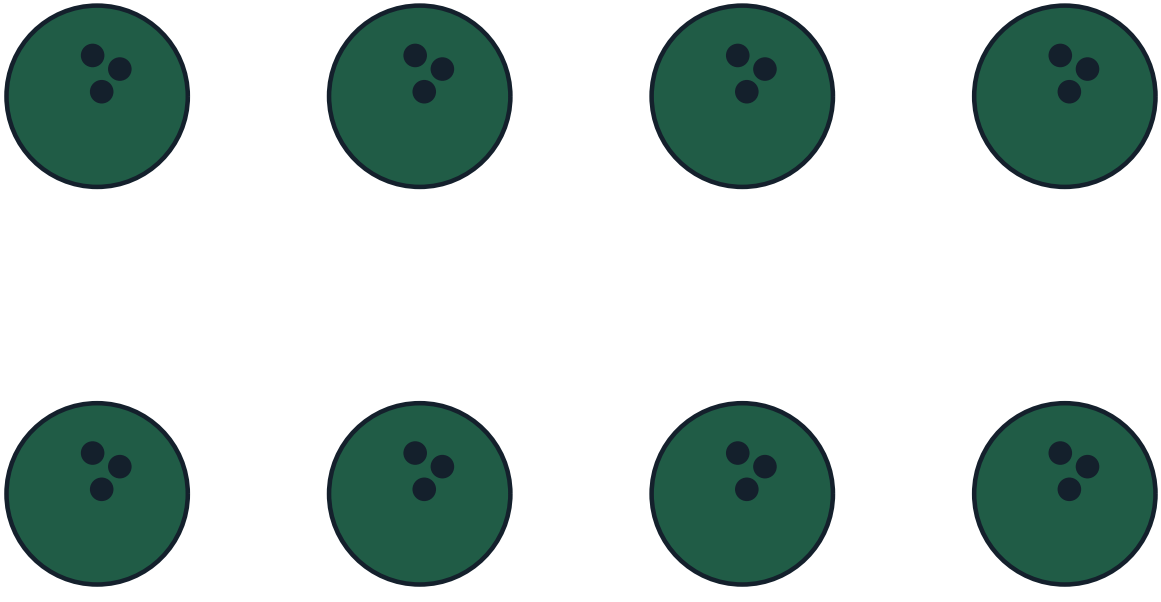
Pattern Play



The Arena From Above



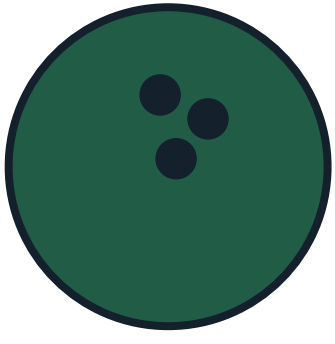
Count the Balls!



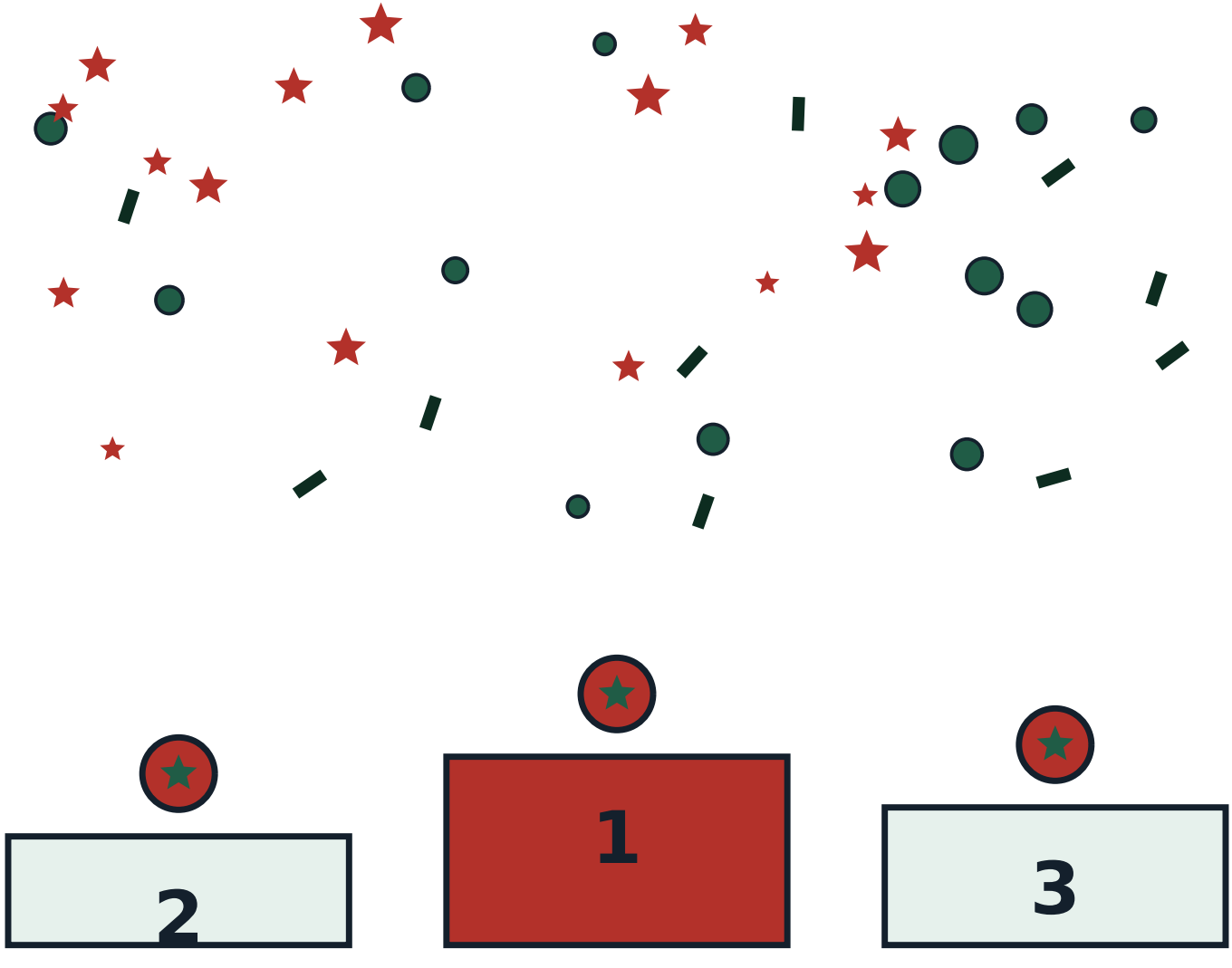
How many can you count? Write the number here: _____

My Favourite Part of Bocce and Pétanque

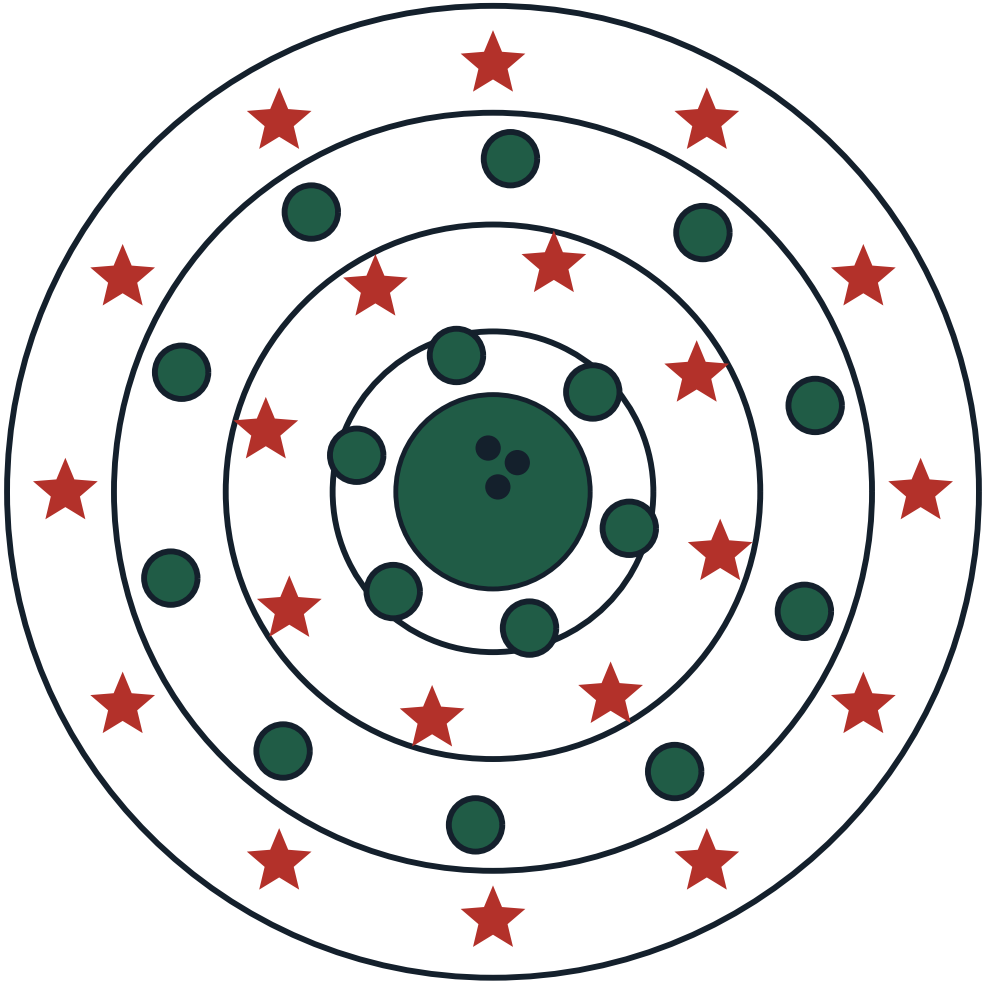
Gear Close-Up



Champions!



The Mandala of the Game



About This Book

Governing body: United States Bocce Federation (USBF) for bocce; Fédération Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal (FIPJP) for pétanque. Laws edition the site's rules file follows: USBF Open Rules (March 2023) for bocce; FIPJP Official Rules for the Sport of Pétanque, approved December 2020. 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 Golf
- The Cartoon Book of Darts
- The Cartoon Book of Snooker and Pool
- The Cartoon Book of Ten-pin Bowling
- The Cartoon Book of Disc Golf
- The Cartoon Book of Archery
- The Golf Colouring Book
- The Darts Colouring Book

My Notes

Bocce and Pétanque

The Cartoon Book of Bocce and Pétanque — 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.

