THE CARTOON BOOK OF

HORSESHOES



TARGET & PRECISION

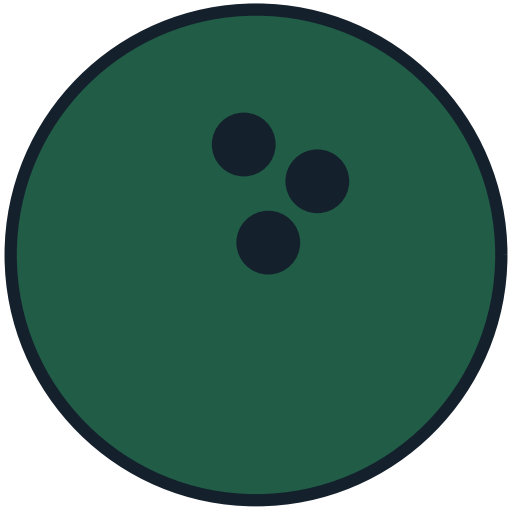
SPORT ON EARTH

Sport on Earth Books · The Target & precision Family

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

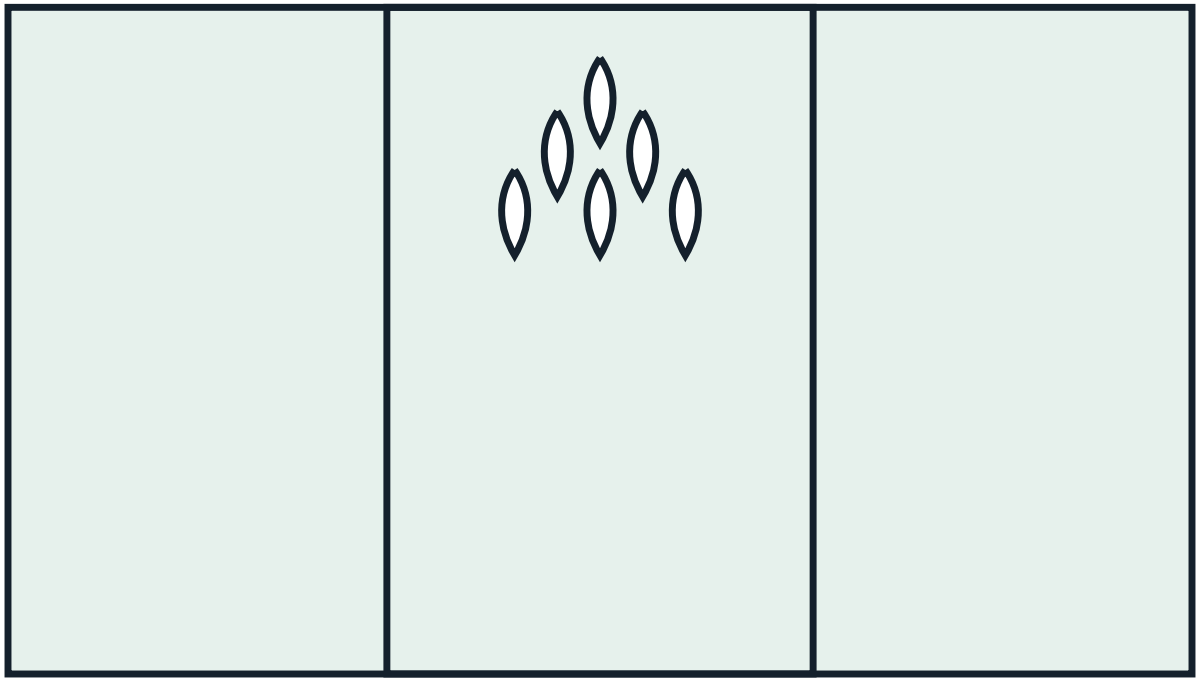
Meet Horseshoes!

Pitch iron shoes at a stake.



Where It Is Played

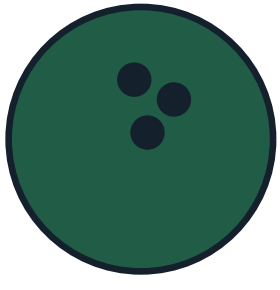
A court with stakes 40 feet apart, each stake 14–15 inches above a pit 31–36 inches wide and 43–72 inches long, with foul lines at 37 feet (men) or 27 feet (women/juniors).



The Gear

NHPA-spec steel horseshoes (max 2 lb 10 oz) and two 1-inch steel stakes set in clay or sand pits.

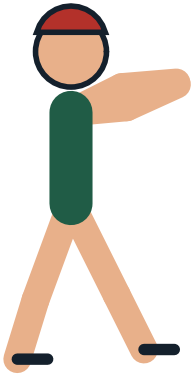






How It Starts

Stand beside the stake behind your foul line, pitch both shoes underarm toward the far stake, then walk down, agree the points and pitch back.



How to Play

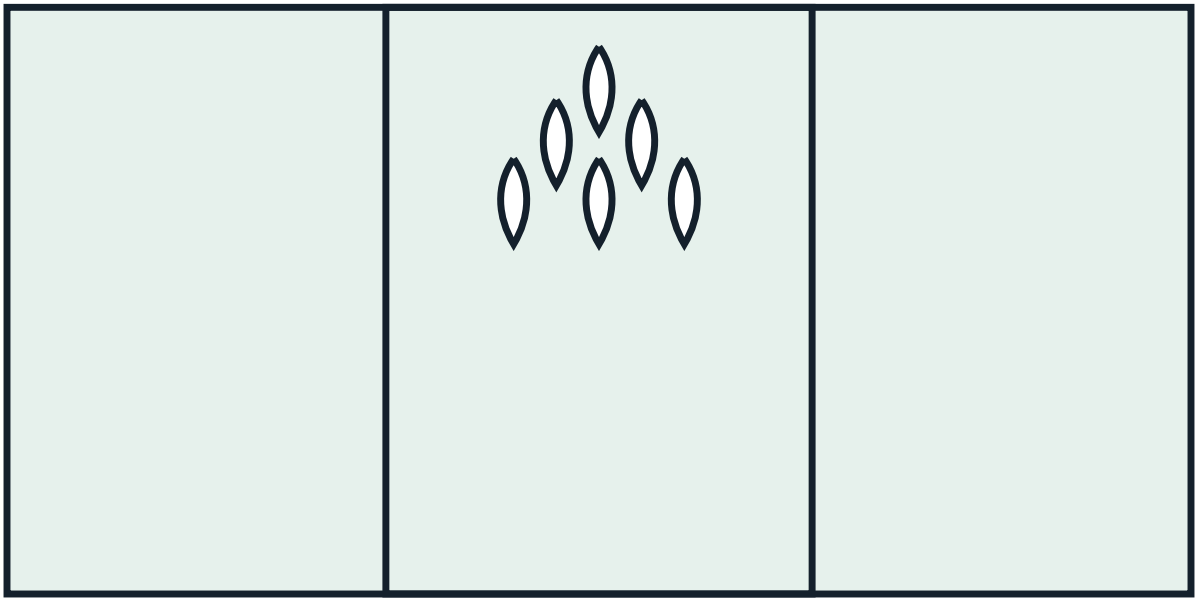
- Format: players pitch two shoes each in turn toward the opposite stake, alternating innings; in doubles, partners pitch from opposite ends.
- Scoring uses cancellation: a ringer (a shoe encircling the stake) scores 3 points, and a shoe within 6 inches of the stake scores 1 point; opposing ringers cancel each other.
- Games are pitched to a set point limit (commonly 40 points) or a set shoe limit (commonly 40 shoes), the higher score winning, with a tie broken by extra innings.
- Pitching distances: Open Men observe the 37-foot foul line (stakes 40 feet apart); Open Women, juniors and elders observe shorter foul lines (27 feet for women/junior boys, 20 feet for junior cadets).

More of the Game

- A pitcher must not cross the foul line when pitching a shoe; a shoe pitched in violation is a foul shoe.
- Only shoes meeting NHPA specifications are legal: maximum weight 2 lb 10 oz, maximum width 7 1/4 inches, maximum length 7 5/8 inches, opening no more than 3 1/2 inches.
- Stakes are 1-inch-diameter steel, set 40 feet apart, extending 14–15 inches above the pit surface and inclined toward each other by no more than a 3-inch lean.
- A shoe must be within the scoring distance of the stake to count, and points are agreed or measured after all four shoes of the inning are pitched.

The Shape of a Match

Singles or doubles pitching two horseshoes per inning at a stake 40 feet away, scoring by cancellation — ringers 3 points, shoes within 6 inches 1 point — to a point or shoe limit.

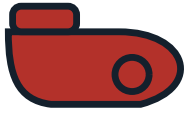


More of the Target & precision Family

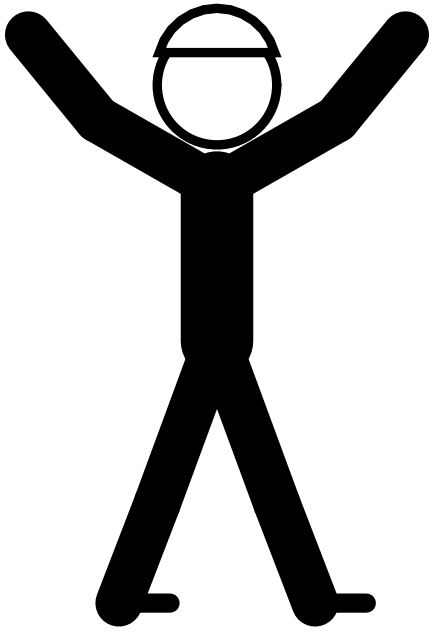
- Golf — Strike a ball into a series of holes in the fewest strokes. A round is typically 18 holes.
- Darts — Throw darts at a board; the PDC circuit is hugely popular in Europe.
- Snooker and Pool — Cue sports with a pro world tour for snooker.
- Ten-pin Bowling — Roll a ball to knock down pins.
- Disc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

A Note on the Rules

Horseshoes is governed in the US by the NHPA under a code of stake distance (40 feet men, 30 feet women in sanctioned play), ringer scoring and shoe specifications — a formalised folk code that has been stable for decades. No major documented rule change is carried for horseshoes.

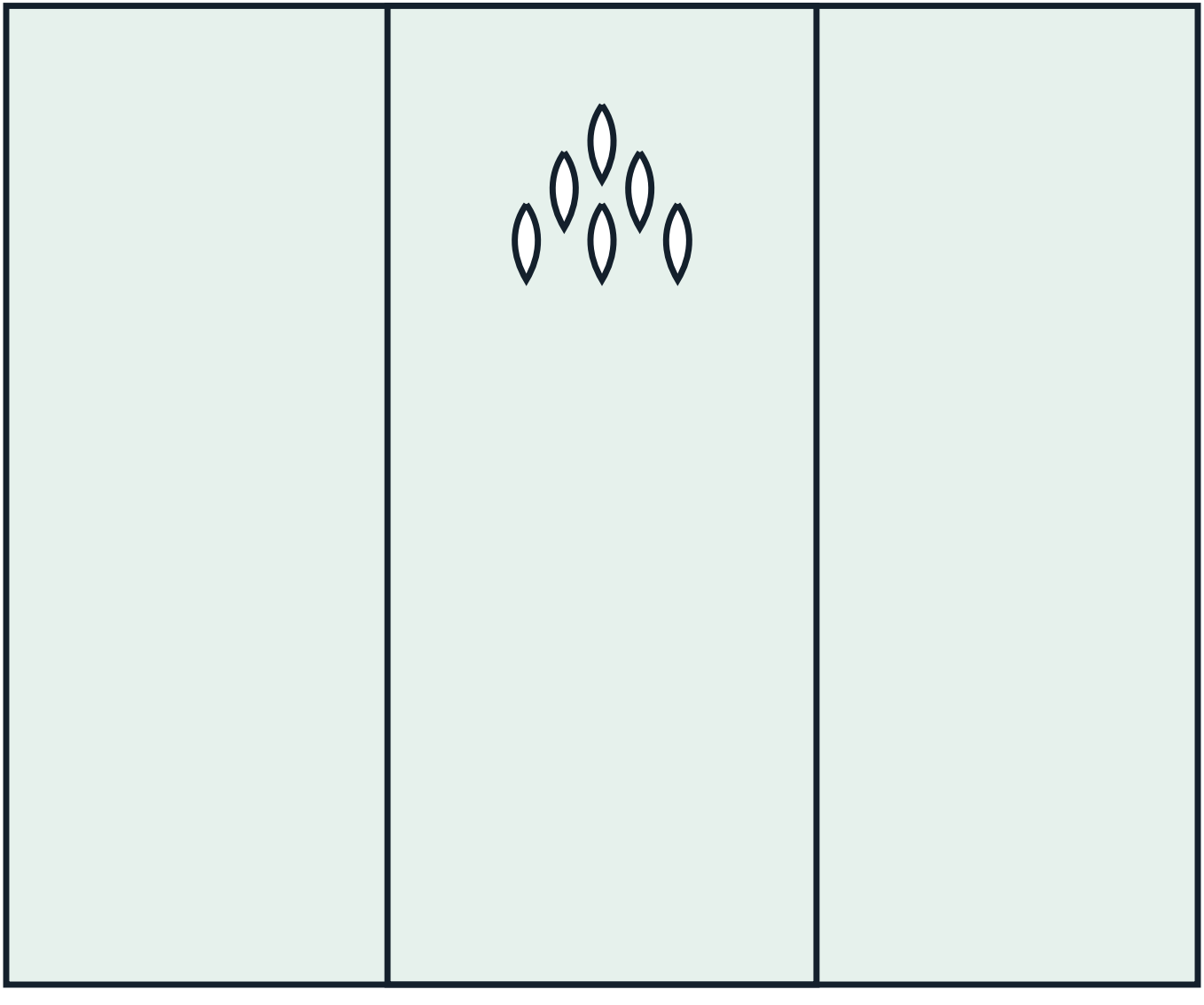


Colour the Action

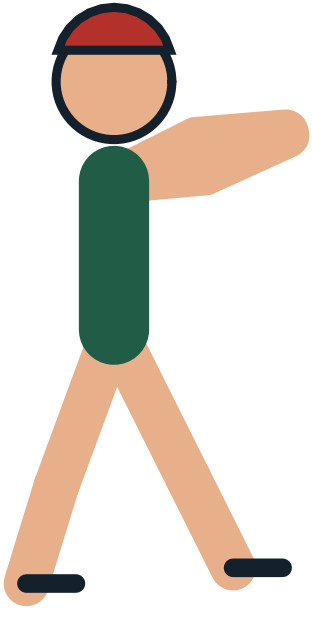


Psst — this page is a colouring page!

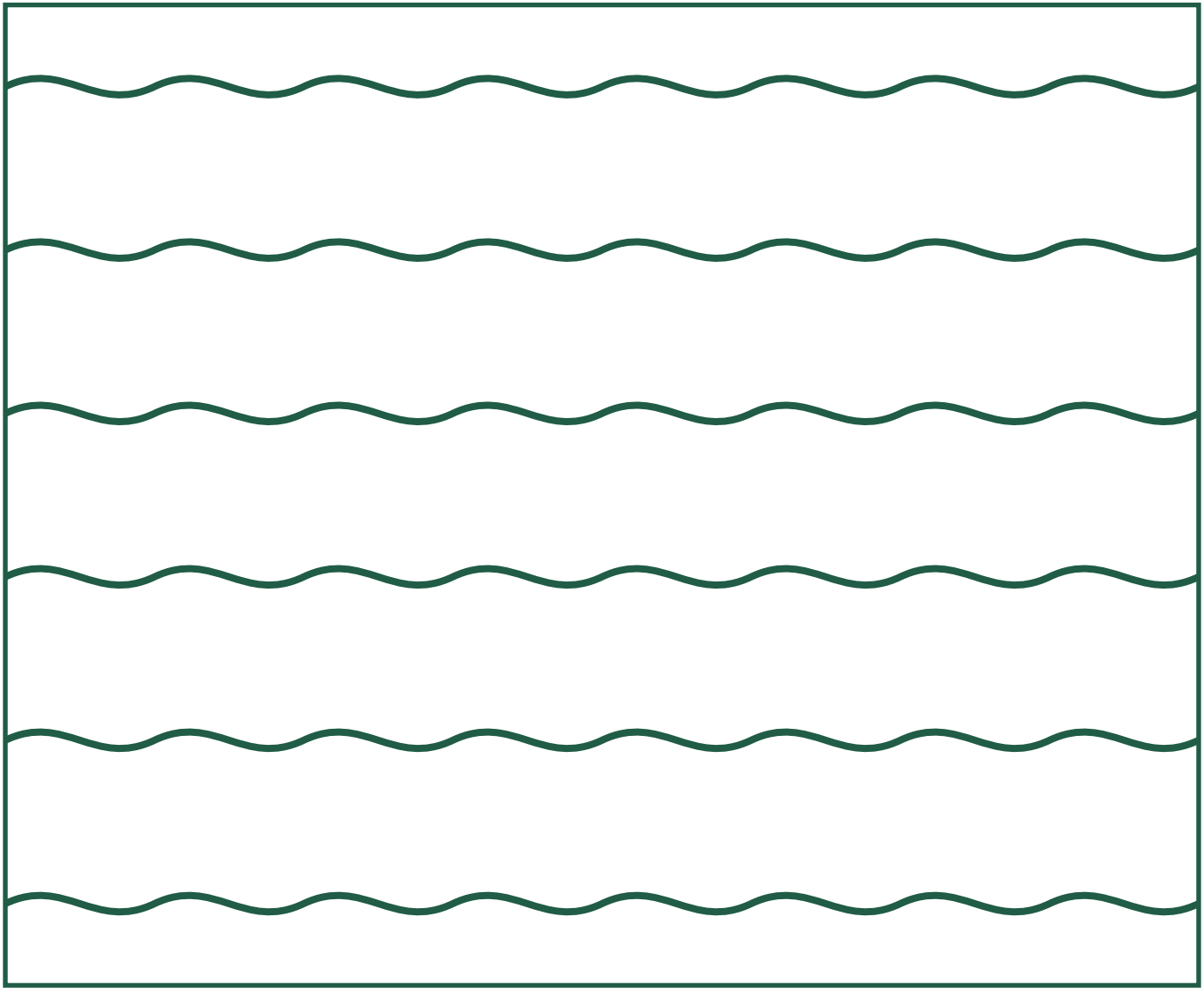
The Sport Today



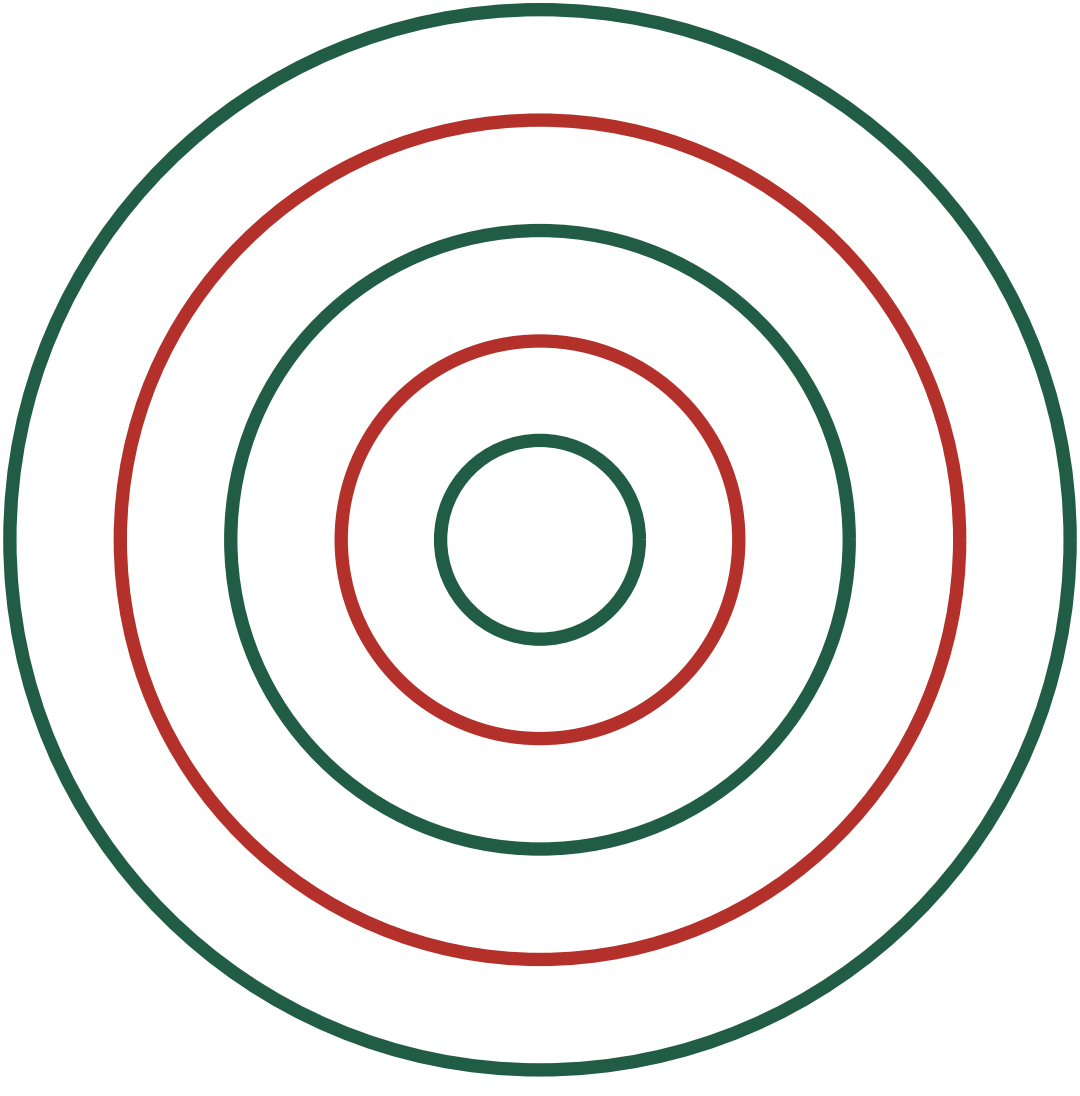
At School and College



Play It Near You



Through the Year

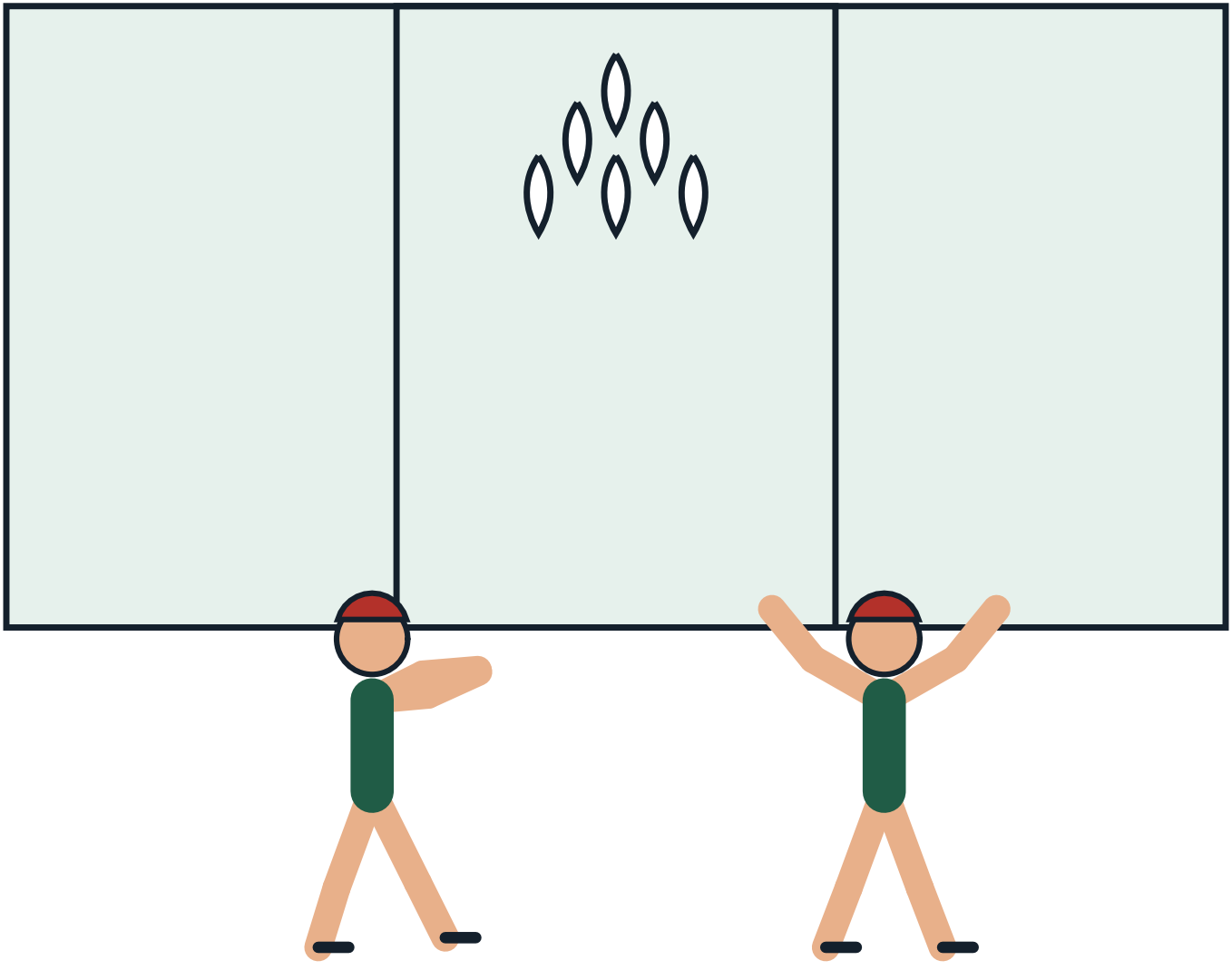


The Target & precision Family

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!

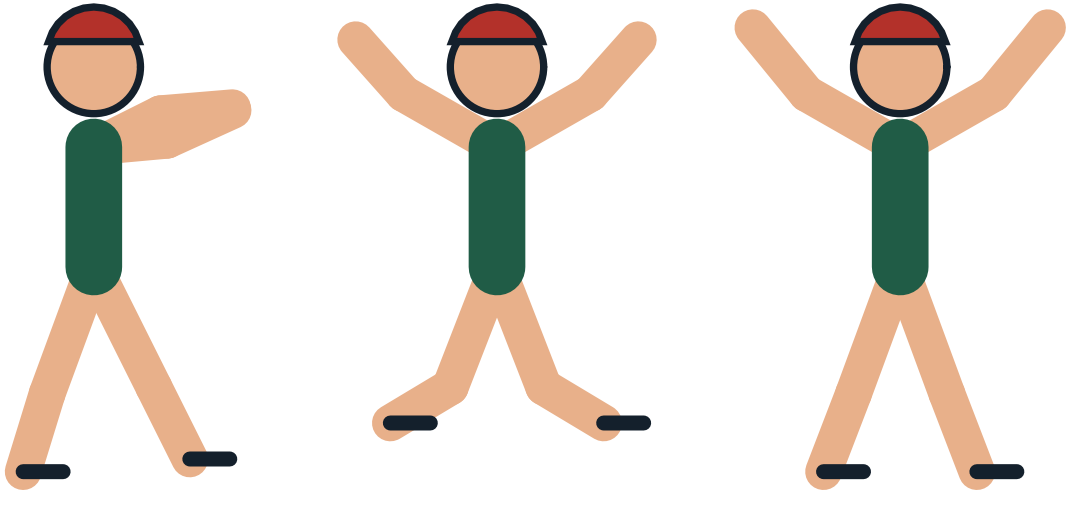


The Sport on Earth Mark

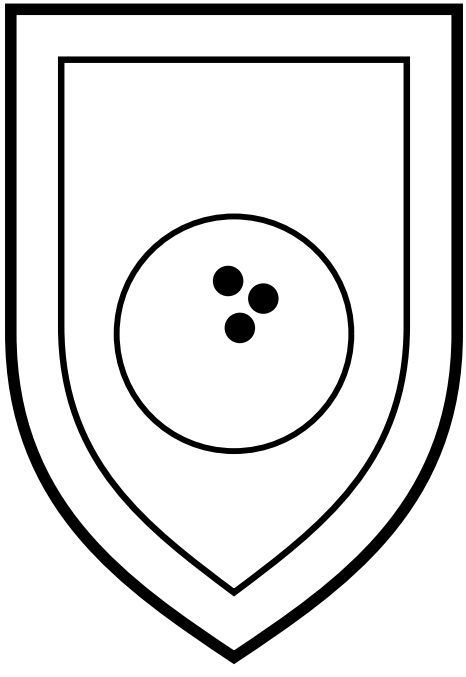
Every sport on Sport on Earth carries its own original mark, drawn for the site. Here is this sport's.



Moves of the Game



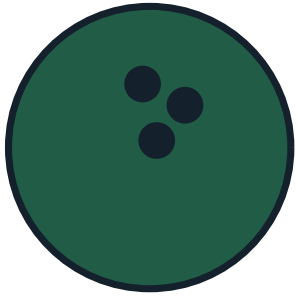
Design a Badge



Draw and colour a badge for your own team.

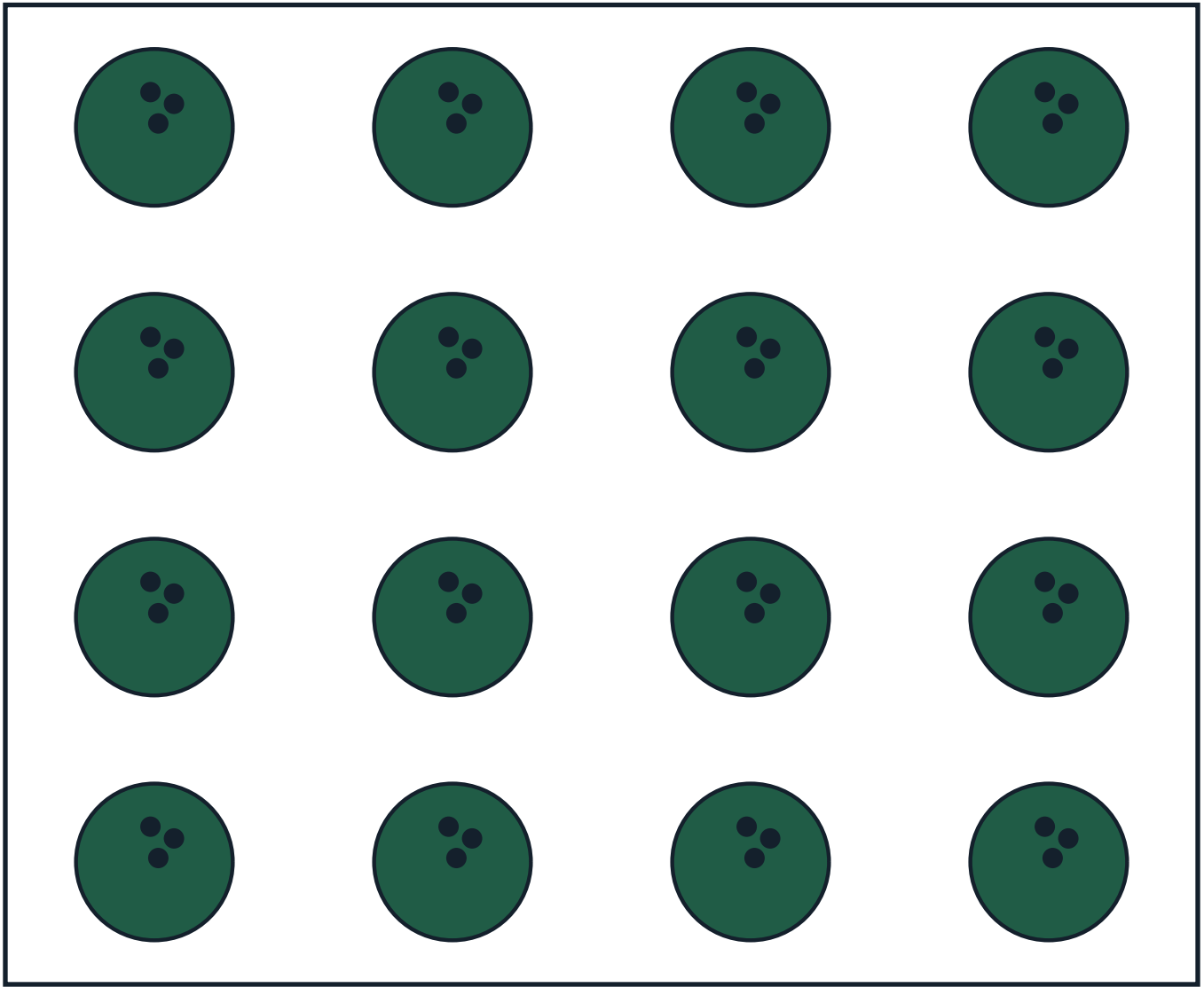
The Gear Parade



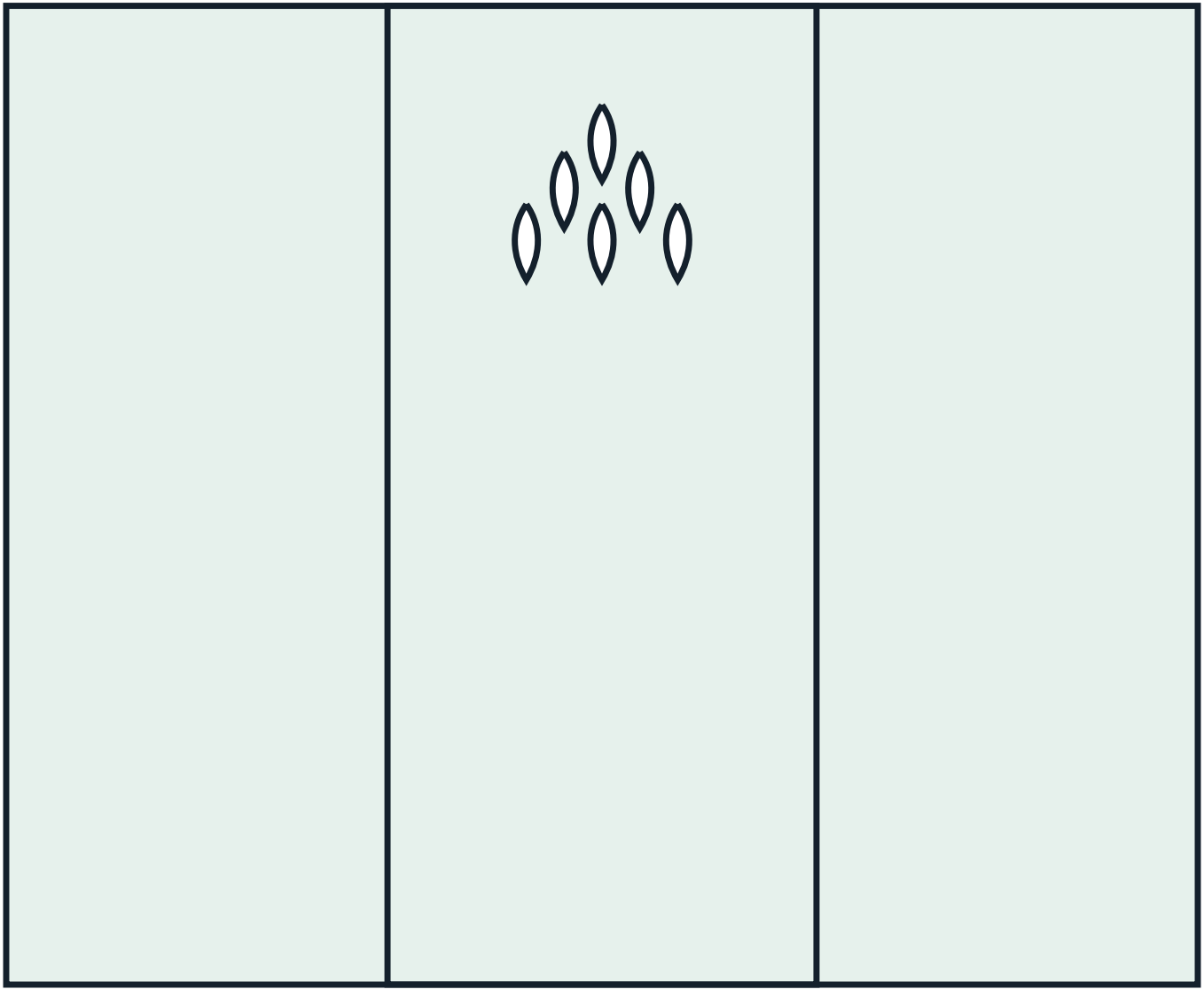




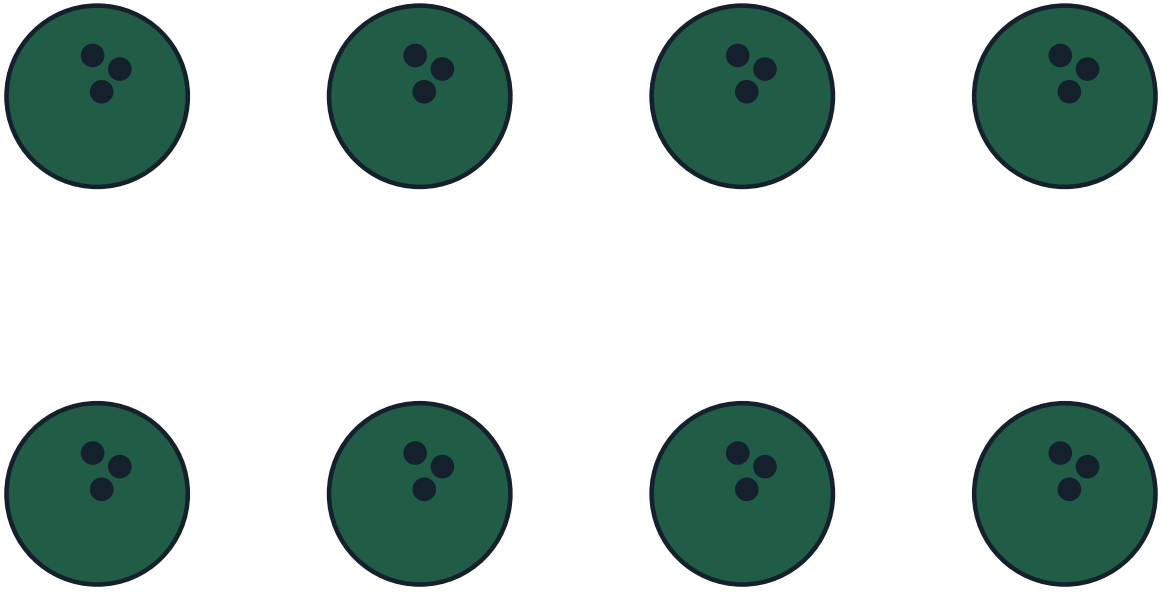
Pattern Play



The Arena From Above



Count the Balls!



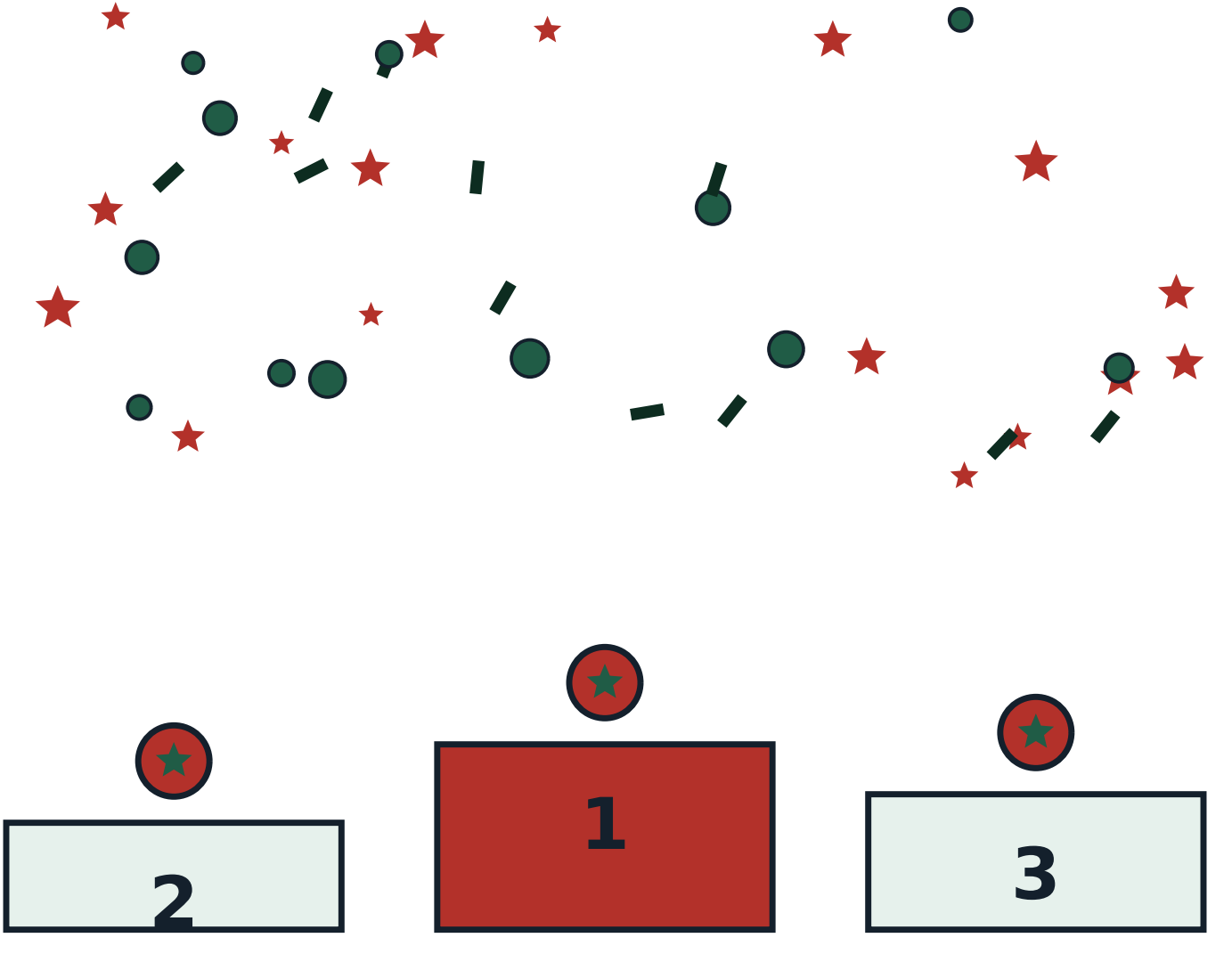
How many can you count? Write the number here: _____

My Favourite Part of Horseshoes

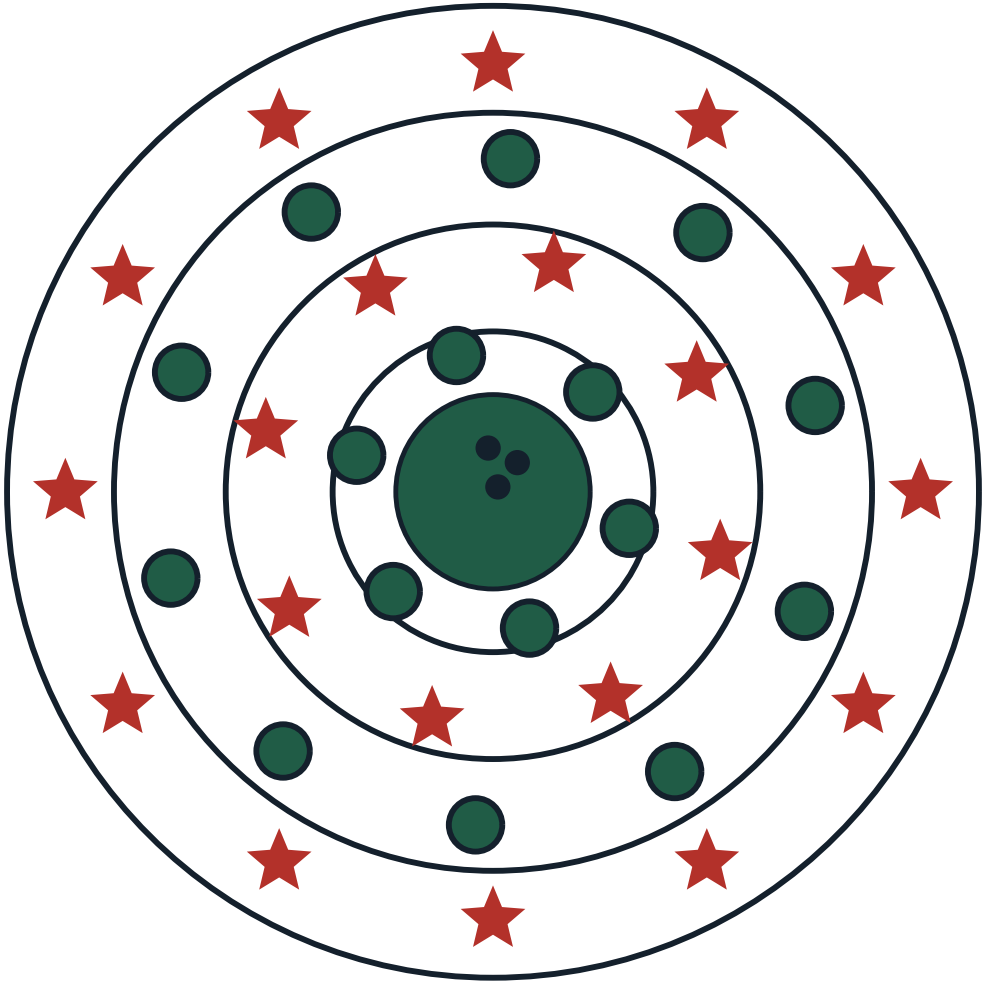
Gear Close-Up



Champions!



The Mandala of the Game



About This Book

Governing body: National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA). Laws edition the site's rules file follows: NHPA Official Rules of Horseshoe Pitching (rules as published by the NHPA, incl. 2010 edition text and current specifications). 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

Horseshoes

The Cartoon Book of Horseshoes — 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.

