Contour Line Drawing of a Football: Form and Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a football from the side, resting on a baseline. Use a hypothetical width of 12 units and height of 10 units. Include the outer contour and one internal arc near the top.

Answer: A contour drawing with a smooth outer curve, flattened bottom, and one gentle arc near the top. Proportions roughly 12 by 10 units.

Reason: The outer contour defines the silhouette; the internal arc describes curvature. Flattening the bottom shows contact with the ground.

Check: Check that the drawing is wider than tall, touches the baseline at one point, and has one internal arc that follows the top curve without crossing.

Task 2

Draw a football viewed slightly from above. Show the outer contour and two internal arcs: one near the top and one near the bottom. Use a hypothetical height of 8 units and width of 9 units.

Answer: A contour drawing with a slightly oval outer shape, two internal arcs, and a flattened bottom.

Reason: Viewing from above changes the apparent shape; internal arcs help show the sphere's curvature.

Check: Check that the outer contour is closed, the internal arcs taper at the ends, and no shading is present.

Task 3

Draw a football with a hypothetical width of 10 units and height of 9 units. Add three internal contour lines that follow the form. Vary line weight slightly.

Answer: A contour drawing with three internal arcs and varied line weight, darker on the near side.

Reason: Multiple internal lines can describe volume; varied weight suggests depth.

Check: Check that internal lines do not cross, follow the outer contour's curvature, and line weight variation is subtle and consistent.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a football resting on a baseline. Use a hypothetical width of 11 units and height of 10 units. Include the outer contour and a short internal arc near the bottom to show flattening.

Answer: A contour drawing with a flattened bottom and one short internal arc near the bottom.

Reason: The short arc emphasizes the flattening where the ball meets the ground.

Check: Check that the bottom is flattened, the short arc is near the bottom, and the drawing reads as a football without seams.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Outer contour is a smooth, closed curve that reads as a football.
- [ ] Bottom of the contour is slightly flattened where it meets the baseline.
- [ ] Internal contour lines follow the form and do not suggest panel seams.
- [ ] Line weight is consistent or intentionally varied for depth.
- [ ] No shading, hatching, or tonal fills are used.
- [ ] Drawing is clean, with construction lines erased.
- [ ] Proportions are plausible; hypothetical measurements are labeled if used.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?