

1) <u>Double-Blind Peer Review Guidelines AATCC Review</u>

2) For Authors

3) Manuscript File:

- 4) Do not include your name, affiliation, email ID, or any personal details in the main manuscript file.
- 5) The manuscript file should contain only the title, abstract, keywords, figures, tables, and the main content.
- 6) Title Page (Separate File):
- 7) Provide authors' names, affiliations, corresponding author details, and the ORCID ID of the corresponding author on a separate title page.
- 8) This file will remain with the editorial office and will not be sent to reviewers.
- 9) Acknowledgments & Funding Information:
- 10) If there is funding support or acknowledgments, include them on the separate title page.
- 11) Do not include acknowledgments or funding details in the main manuscript text.
- 12) Self-Citation:
- 13) If you need to cite your own previous work, write in a neutral style.
- 14) Example: "Previous studies have shown..."
- 15) Not: "In our earlier work..."
- 16) For Reviewers
- 17) Maintain Confidentiality:
- 18) Reviewers must not attempt to discover or disclose the identity of the authors.
- 19) Manuscripts or data under review must not be shared with anyone outside the review process.
- 20) Unbiased Evaluation:
- 21) Manuscripts should be assessed solely on the basis of content, methodology, originality, and contribution.
- 22) Personal bias regarding the author's name, institution, or country must be strictly avoided.
- 23) Constructive Feedback:
- 24) Reviewer comments must be professional, objective, and constructive.
- 25) Avoid mentioning authors' names directly in the feedback.
- 26) Double-Blind Review Author Guidelines
- 27) The **Title Page** must be submitted as a separate file.

- 28) It should include: author names, institutional affiliations, corresponding author details, acknowledgments, and conflict of interest statements.
- 29) The **Anonymized Manuscript** should not contain any identifying information such as author names, affiliations, funding sources, or acknowledgments.
- 30) **Self-Citation** must be written in a neutral form.
- 31) Example: "Black and Hart (2015) have demonstrated"
- 32) Not: "We previously demonstrated (Black & Hart, 2015)"
- 33) Figures and Tables should not contain references to author institutions.
- 34) File Names and File Properties must also be anonymized.
- 35) For example, use the Document Inspector tool in Microsoft Word (Office 2007 or later) to remove metadata.
- 36) Only the **Title Page**, **Cover Letter**, and **LaTeX Source Files** are not shared with reviewers.

37) For Editors

- 38) Ensuring Anonymity:
- 39) Editors must ensure that all identifying information is removed from manuscripts before sending them to reviewers.
- 40) Reviewer identities must never be disclosed to authors.
- 41) Balanced Reviewer Selection:
- 42) Each manuscript should be sent to at least **two independent reviewers** with appropriate subject expertise.
- 43) Editors must check for and avoid any conflicts of interest when assigning reviewers.
- 44) Decision Transparency:
- 45) Editorial decisions must be based on reviewers' feedback and editorial judgment.
- 46) Reviewer comments are forwarded to authors anonymously to assist them in improving their manuscript.

47) Referenced Standards & Policies for Peer Review and Publication

48) 1. COPE – Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers

49) Defines the ethical expectations and responsibilities for peer reviewers. Widely adopted by institutions and journals as a standard reference.

COPE Ethical Guidelines

50) 2. Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing

51) A joint framework by **COPE, DOAJ, OASPA, and WAME**, covering essential elements such as peer review transparency, publication ethics, and fee transparency.

<u>Principles of Transparency – Publication Ethics</u>

52) 3. Springer – Peer Review Policy & Process

53) An international publisher's detailed guidelines on peer review, reviewer selection, conflict of interest, and decision-making transparency.

Springer Peer Review Policy

54) 4. Scholastica Blog – Importance of Peer Review Policies for Open Access Journals

55) Explains why peer review policies are essential for journal credibility, indexing requirements, and funding compliance (e.g., DOAJ, Plan S). Scholastica Blog

56) 5. Journal Example: Double-Blind Peer Review Policy (JCSR)

57) A real example from the *Journal of Curriculum Studies Research* showing how a double-blind peer review policy can be presented on a journal's website.

JCSR Peer Review Policy

58) 6. IUCr – Ethical Publishing Policy & Confidentiality

59) Covers confidentiality, plagiarism handling, and author responsibilities—providing a strong ethical backbone for publication standards.

<u>IUCr Ethical Publishing Policy</u>

60) Suggested Use of These References

61) Section on Journal Website 62) Recommended Reference Source 63) Peer Review Process (Double-64) Springer Peer Review Policy **Blind Explanation**) 65) Ethical Guidance for Reviewers 66) COPE Ethical Guidelines 68) Principles of Transparency (COPE, 67) Transparency & Publication **Standards** DOAJ, OASPA, WAME) 69) Importance of Having Peer 70) Scholastica Blog **Review Policies** 72) JCSR Double-Blind Peer Review 71) Journal Example Reference 73) Ethics & Confidentiality 74) IUCr Ethical Publishing Policy

75) How to Incorporate Them

Practices

- 76) Under the **Peer Review Process** section, link to Springer's explanation for credibility.
- 77) For reviewer ethics, provide a link to COPE's ethical guidelines.
- 78) In a broader **Publication Ethics** section, reference the *Principles of Transparency* and the IUCr example.
- 79) Highlight the **importance of peer review policies** for credibility and compliance, using the Scholastica blog as a reference.
- 80) Editorial and Ethical Policies-AATCC Review

81) The Agriculture Association of Textile Chemical and Critical Reviews Journal (AATCC Review) is committed to maintaining high ethical standards and transparency in scholarly publishing. The following core policies guide our publication process:

82) 1. Peer Review Policy (Double-Blind Process)

83) All manuscripts undergo a rigorous **double-blind peer review** process. The identities of both authors and reviewers are concealed to ensure impartial and unbiased evaluation.

84) 2. Publication Ethics (COPE Guidelines)

85) The journal adheres to the guidelines of the **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)**. Authors, reviewers, and editors are expected to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct in research and publication.

86) 3. Plagiarism & Originality Policy

87) Manuscripts must be original and free from plagiarism. The journal uses **iThenticate/Turnitin** software to check for similarity and ensure originality prior to publication.

88) 4. Authorship & Contribution Criteria

89) Authorship must be based on the criteria defined by the **International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)**. Only those who have made a significant intellectual contribution to the research and manuscript should be listed as authors.

90) 5. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

91) All authors, reviewers, and editors must disclose any financial or personal conflicts of interest that could influence their research, review, or editorial decisions.

92) 6. Open Access & Licensing Policy

93) The journal follows an **open access publishing model**, making all articles freely available to readers. Publications are licensed under the **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)** license, allowing unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction with proper attribution.

94) 7. Copyright Transfer Agreement

95) Upon acceptance, authors are required to sign a copyright transfer agreement, granting the journal rights to publish and disseminate their work while retaining author rights for future academic use.

96) 8. Data Availability & Transparency Statement

97) Authors must ensure that data supporting their findings are clearly stated, accessible, and reproducible, in line with best practices for research transparency.

98) Ethical Guidelines for Plant/Field Trials

99) For manuscripts involving agricultural research,

100)authors must follow appropriate ethical guidelines for plant/field trials. (Human or animal research guidelines are applicable only when relevant and required.)

101) Reference Sources

102) These international standards provide the basis for our journal's policies:

103)COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics): https://publicationethics.org/

104)ICMJE Authorship Guidelines: https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/

105)Creative Commons License (CC BY 4.0):

https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

106) Elsevier Agriculture Journals Policies (Sample):

https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies

107) Springer Author & Ethics Guidelines:

https://www.springer.com/gp/authors-editors/journal-author/journal-author-helpdesk/publishing-ethics/14214