

## IJOMAM PUBLICATION ETHICS STATEMENT

The current **Publication Ethics Statement** applicable to the *International Journal of Mechatronics and Applied Mechanics* was devised drawing on the provisions of the *Code of Conduct and Best-Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors*<sup>1</sup>. Its main purpose is to guide the actors that produce the Journal in regard to the best behaviour in terms of an ethical attitude towards the process of publication by defining the standards that they must relate to in order to generate a valuable piece of work that respects, at the same time, the moral requirements.

As it is the case with all publications, the dispositions featured here apply to the triad of actors involved in issuing the journal – **the Editor and his Editorial Team, the Reviewers and the Authors** – whose ethical behaviour is mandatory for a good outcome in terms of compliance with the moral standards that a good scientific journal must relate to.

The most important moral standards that the three actors concerned are to align with are the following:

- ✓ **Non-disclosure of the information included in the manuscripts submitted for evaluation by the Editor (and his team) or by the Reviewers, regardless if the manuscript is accepted or rejected.** Only should a paper be accepted will the information be made public and only in the form of the final paper submitted by the author after the optimisation of the paper according to the suggestions of the Reviewers;
- ✓ **The prohibition – applicable to both the Editor (and the Editorial Team) and the Reviewers – to use the information included in a submitted paper for their own research** before the paper is published by IJOMAM or by other publication;
- ✓ **Ensuring a fair publication that will feature no discrimination** on grounds such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation etc.
- ✓ **Resorting to a double blind peer-review process that will ensure that no personal opinions, animosities, or any type of prejudices will result in the discrimination of an author and will interfere with the righteousness of the selection process;** the peer-review process includes the consultation with two

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<sup>1</sup> *Committee on Publication Ethics, 2011*

experts in the field in which the information presented in the paper belongs to, and the final decision on publishing is reached after an agreement between the two is attained;

✓ **The proper citation of sources and zero plagiarism** – All the entities involved in the publishing process are to prevent any form of plagiarism and to use a proper citation of sources. Authors are to sign a Copyright Form in which they commit to respect this provision, but it up to the Reviewers and to the Editor and the Editorial Team to make sure that these requirements are not eluded by unfair contributors;

✓ **The fairness of paper selection** – in other words, the consideration of the scientific merit as the key factor in making a decision regarding the acceptance or rejection of a paper. No financial grounds or any other type of criteria should interfere with the evaluation process.

To make sure that these aspects are observed, the Editor and the Editorial Team require the Authors to sign a **Copyright Transfer Agreement** that includes a Non-Plagiarism statement, and all steps of the publication process are made available in the dedicated section of the website (a Basic Checklist for Authors included). At the same time, Reviewers are guided by the **Review Procedure** which is made public (for Authors to see as well), while their work is free of charge, granting a high objectivity to the evaluation process. Also, they must sign an **Agreement** before being admitted as a member of the Reviewer Team. The work of the Editor-in-Chief and that of the Editorial Team is kept to a minimum in the area of intervention on the Evaluation Process and it is focused primarily on the observance of the standards defined for a high-quality publication process.

✓ **Acknowledgement of sources**

Reviewers should identify relevant published work that has not been cited by the authors. Any statement that an argument had been previously reported should be accompanied by the relevant citation. All sources of financial support or contributions obtained from another institution in the course of author's work should be cited as acknowledgements at the end of the manuscript.

✓ **Redundant publication**

An author should not in general publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication. If a manuscript has been submitted in more than one journal (which is unethical and reprehensible) the Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to reject the manuscript.

✓ **Conflicts of interest**

The financial or important conflict of interest that might to influence the interpretation of the results must be disclosed.