

BEST PRACTICE CODE

REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE DERECHO INTERNACIONAL

This Code lays down the principles and criteria guiding the submission and receipt of manuscripts, the peer review process, any decisions on publication and, in sum, the publishing process altogether of the *Revista Española de Derecho Internacional* (in English: the Spanish Journal of International Law; hereinafter referred to as the *Journal* or *REDI*).

1. Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board

1.1. *Compliance and independence*

The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board are responsible for deciding which of the submitted manuscripts should be published. Scholars shall generally refrain from submitting any manuscripts they have authored whilst holding a position in any REDI's boards or committees. The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board shall assess any submitted manuscripts based on their academic value (thus considering their quality and originality, as well as the interest and significance of the subject-matter, the papers' contributions, their relevance and clarity, and any applicable copyright law) having regard to the blind external peer reviews accepting the manuscripts, as well as considering their alignment with the Journal's objectives.

Any decisions on publication shall be based on the principle of equal opportunity, without any discrimination on the basis of the author's personal status or circumstances, or those of the organization where he/she may be employed. Decisions on publication shall by no means be determined or influenced by any persons or entities external to the Journal.

The Editor-in-Chief shall publish the [General Guidelines](#), which will govern the performance of the Journal's boards and committees, authors, and reviewers throughout the publishing process. The aforementioned Guidelines must be in line with this Code.

1.2 *Confidentiality and conflicts of interest*

The Journal's bodies and committees shall abide by data protection and intellectual property law, and they must behave with integrity. Pursuant to the foregoing:

a) They shall not disclose any information on the submitted originals to anyone other than the author, reviewers, potential reviewers, the Advisory Board, or the editors, as appropriate.

b) They shall not use any information contained in the unpublished originals without the authors' prior consent.

c) They shall neither disclose nor use for personal advantage any ideas or pieces of information obtained through the handling of originals. They shall not make any

decisions with regard to the publication of a manuscript in which they may have conflicts of interest resulting from a direct personal or working relationship with the author, from any connections with entities or for any other reason that may compromise their impartiality.

d) They shall not suggest citation of their own work or provide the authors with their own research unless so requested by the authors.

The Editor-in-Chief and any members of the Editorial Board shall not make any decisions with regard to the publication of a manuscript in which they may have conflicts of interest resulting from a direct personal or working relationship with the author, from any connections with entities, or for any other reason that may compromise their impartiality.

2. Duties and prerogatives of reviewers

Any invited scholars who accept to become peer reviewers of manuscripts submitted to REDI for publication automatically and simultaneously accept this Code and REDI's General Guidelines.

2.1 Recommendations to the Editorial Board

Reviewers shall issue a positive or a negative recommendation, in accordance with the General Guidelines.

In line with the principle of independence governing the performance of the Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board, any recommendations issued by the reviewers shall be non-binding. Accordingly, the Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board shall be entitled to decide whether to publish the manuscript by a majority vote.

2.2 Standards of objectivity

Reviews should be conducted objectively. Reviewers must express their views clearly with appropriate supporting arguments in a constructive manner, so as to allow authors to improve their originals based on the reviews. Personal criticism of the author and offensive remarks of any kind shall be unacceptable.

2.3 Confidentiality and conflicts of interest

All manuscripts sent by REDI to the reviewers should be considered and treated as confidential documents. They must not be disclosed or discussed with others except if authorized by the Editor-in-Chief.

Any relevant work shall also be treated as confidential by any reviewers who have declined the invitation to review such work.

Unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript should not be used in a reviewer's own research without the prior explicit consent of the author(s). Privileged information or ideas obtained through peer review must not be used for personal advantage. Reviewers should not consider evaluating manuscripts if they know the author or if they have a direct personal or working relationship with him/her that may

compromise their impartiality.

3. Duties of authors

3.1 *Quality standards*

Authors of an original manuscript should provide all the information on the conducted research and their conclusions. Additionally, the manuscript shall include sufficient details and references so as to allow for a third-party review. Making inaccurate or false claims voluntarily shall be unacceptable.

3.2 *Originality. Unpublished and exclusive works*

Authors should ensure that they have written entirely original works. They shall refrain from submitting works that have already been published. The manuscript may not be published in case the authors fail to comply with these provisions.

Simultaneous submissions to more than one journal will be considered dishonest and unacceptable, and consequently the relevant work will not be published.

3.3 *Errors and copyright infringements in published works*

If the author finds any inaccuracies or errors in the published work, he/she should report it to the Editor-in-Chief as soon as reasonably possible, in order to rectify it prior to final publication. The author shall cooperate with the Journal, even in case of fundamental errors or signs of plagiarism that may entail the withdrawal of the work. The Journal shall make its best efforts to withdraw such a work from the website or to rectify the errors, and it shall cooperate with any competent research assessment bodies.