

Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement

The publication ethics and malpractice statement are based on the Good Publication Practice Guidelines established by COPE (<https://publicationethics.org/files/u7141/1999pdf13.pdf>).

Ethical Expectations

For Editors

- Editors will actively seek to improve the quality of the Journal and its processes based on input from authors, readers, reviewers, and editorial board members.
- They will publish clear instructions in the Journal about submission and what they expect from authors.
- They will ensure that all submitted papers are reviewed in a timely manner by suitably qualified reviewers.
- They will limit disclosure of information about submissions to the corresponding author(s), reviewers, potential reviewers, editorial advisers, and the publisher.
- They will publish clear advice to reviewers as to how reviews are conducted.
- They will maintain an up to date list of potential reviewers that is reflective of the academic community for the Journal.
- They will ensure a double-blind review process whereby the identity of authors is not revealed to reviewers and vice versa.
- The contribution of reviewers to the Journal will be acknowledged.
- The Editors' decisions to accept or reject a manuscript will be based only on the paper's importance, originality, and clarity, and the study's relevance to the Journal of Food Distribution Research.
- If a published paper is later found to contain major flaws, editors will accept responsibility for correcting the record.
- Editors will adopt and follow reasonable procedures to respond to complaints of an ethical or conflict nature. They will give authors a reasonable opportunity to respond to any complaints. All complaints will be investigated. Documentation associated with any complaints will be retained.

For Reviewers

- Reviewers will conduct an objective assessment of the quality of the submitted manuscript and its appropriateness for publication in the Journal.
- They will communicate their assessment in a report to the authors and a separate report to the Editor(s).
- They will identify recently published work relevant to the submitted paper that has not been identified by the author(s).
- They will also identify substantial similarity or overlap between the submitted work and other published work that has not been properly cited by the author(s).
- They will maintain the confidentiality of any information supplied by the editor or author.
- They will not retain or copy the submitted manuscript.

- They will alert the editor to any potential conflict of interests that prevents them from reviewing a manuscript.

For Authors

- Research presented in any manuscript should be well justified, well planned, appropriately designed, and ethically approved.
- Studies involving human subjects should conform to national and institutional laws and requirements (e.g., IRB approval), and authors should confirm that approval has been sought and obtained where appropriate.
- Fabrication and falsification of data do constitute misconduct.
- Authors should provide original manuscripts containing material that has not been published, is not being published or considered for publication elsewhere, and will not be submitted for publication elsewhere unless rejected by the journal editor or withdrawn by the author(s).
- Submitted manuscripts must not infringe upon other published material protected by copyright.
- Authors should declare any potential conflict of interest.
- Authors consent to giving the Journal of Food Distribution Research exclusive right to publish, to copyright, and to allow or deny reproduction of it, in whole or in part.
- Author(s) retain the right to use published material for teaching, outreach, and other non-profit uses.
- All authors must take public responsibility for the content of their paper.

Procedures for dealing with unethical behavior

We will follow the principles and actions as described in the COPE Guidelines on Good Publication Practice for dealing with unethical behavior (<https://publicationethics.org/files/u7141/1999pdf13.pdf>).