

# AJSM Ethics Policies

Work submitted to *The American Journal of Sports Medicine* (AJSM) must comply with these policies, which are based on the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) [Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors](#) and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#).

## ETHICS APPROVAL FOR PAPERS SUBMITTED TO AJSM

All studies involving human beings, human tissue from living donors, and confidential patient information must be accompanied by written approval from an institutional review board (IRB), ethics committee, or similar agency. If the investigation was performed in a country where approval is not required for retrospective studies based on patient data, a copy of the relevant regulations and a current URL (web address) where the regulations can be found should be provided.

Studies involving human cadaveric tissue should be accompanied by IRB or similar agency approval, or a statement of waiver from the appropriate body if approval is not required at the institution where the study was performed.

## Patient Confidentiality and Consent to Publication

Manuscripts reporting human studies must contain statements indicating that informed, written consent has been obtained (unless waived by the IRB/ethics committee committee) and that studies have been performed according to the [Declaration of Helsinki](#). If individuals might be identified from a publication (eg, from images), the authors must obtain explicit written consent from the individual.

All case reports must include a statement of release or other written form of approval from the patient or patients indicating that they approve publication of the details of their case.

## Animal Studies

Manuscripts describing studies involving animals should comply with local/national guidelines governing the use of experimental animals and must contain a statement indicating that the procedures have been approved by the appropriate animal use regulatory body.

## DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The AJSM editors believe that transparency in research is essential. All submissions must be accompanied by the completed [AJSM disclosure form](#). Authors may alternatively use the [ICMJE disclosure form](#), providing that they also complete the [AJSM supplement to the ICJME disclosure](#).

The corresponding author is responsible for collecting and reporting disclosures from all authors. The completed disclosure form shall include complete disclosure from all authors and any other individuals acknowledged as contributing to the conduct or analysis of the research or writing of the manuscript.

All editors and reviewers must file a potential conflict of interest declaration annually in the AJSM manuscript review system.

## RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

If the editors suspect research misconduct in a submitted manuscript, the article in question will be held until the matter is resolved. The editors will contact authors and any appropriate third party to ascertain whether the grounds for investigation are justified. If serious research misconduct is discovered, the editors may contact the authors' institutions.

If research misconduct is suspected after a paper is accepted and published, the matter will be investigated according to COPE guidelines. Potential cases of serious research misconduct will be referred to the AJSM Ethics Committee for evaluation and recommendations for action. The final determination of action will be made by the Editor-in-Chief.

Depending upon the seriousness of the misconduct, the paper may be retracted and the authors' institution may be notified. In any case of serious research misconduct, all authors of such an article may be banned from future publication in AJSM for a specified period of time or indefinitely.

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Manipulation or enhancement of any images contained in a manuscript, whether electronic or otherwise, should be declared in the legend to the image. Undeclared image manipulation shall be considered as a form of author misconduct.

## PUBLICATION OF CORRECTIONS

AJSM will publish corrections for any errors discovered after publication, whether the error was by the authors or occurred during the publication process. However, it is the responsibility of the authors to minimize the possibility of errors by carefully reviewing all proofs prior to publication. If an error is discovered after a manuscript has been published electronically but before it appears in print, a corrected version of the electronic version will be published and the corrected version will be published in print.

## EDITORS' AND REVIEWERS' DUTY OF CONFIDENTIALITY TO AUTHORS

The editors and reviewers of AJSM treat all submitted manuscripts as confidential documents, which means they will not divulge information about a manuscript to anyone without the authors' permission nor use knowledge of its contents for their own benefit. During the process of manuscript review, the following people may have access to manuscripts:

- Editors and editorial staff
- External peer reviewers

## REPORTING CLINICAL TRIALS

Registration of clinical trials in an appropriate repository such as <http://clinicaltrials.gov> is required for trials started after January 1, 2016. Submissions of clinical trials should include the registration number and name of the trial register.