

Policy on ethical oversight

1. Scope

This policy applies to all submissions of original research submitted to Pomorstvo. It sets out the journal's requirements for ethical review and oversight of research, the responsibilities of authors, and the processes by which the journal ensures ethical standards are met prior to publication and beyond.

2. Principles

Ethical oversight is a core responsibility of the journal in safeguarding the rights, dignity, safety and welfare of subjects (human or non-human), and ensuring that research is conducted in accordance with accepted ethical norms, institutional review, applicable legislation/regulation and discipline-specific standards. Pomorstvo expects authors to adhere to recognized ethical standards (for example, obtaining research ethics committee/institutional review board approval, informed consent for human subjects, data confidentiality, and appropriate treatment of vulnerable populations). Where local, national, or institutional standards differ, authors must indicate clearly the standard followed, and the journal reserves the right to seek further information or refuse publication if ethical oversight is insufficient.

3. Author Responsibilities

Authors must state in their manuscript whether ethical approval was required and obtained, provide the name of the approving body, reference number, and date of approval. For research involving human participants, authors must state that informed consent was obtained (or if not required, provide justification). If the study involves vulnerable populations, authors must provide additional justification for the research, indicate special protections or oversight, and ensure compliance with applicable ethical best practices. If the manuscript uses data of a sensitive nature, authors must describe how confidentiality, privacy, and data protection have been ensured. Where publication of identifiable individuals, images, or case reports is involved, authors must confirm that consent for publication was obtained or that the identifying details have been removed in accordance with privacy standards.

4. Submission Requirements

Every submitted manuscript must include a dedicated *Ethics Statement* section that addresses the items described above. The manuscript must include a clear statement of whether no ethical approval was required.

5. Editorial and Peer Review Oversight

On receipt of a manuscript, the editorial office will check for the presence of the Ethics Statement and that it appears complete. If missing or inadequate, the manuscript may be returned to the

authors prior to peer review. Editors and reviewers will be asked to consider ethical aspects of the research during evaluation. If concerns arise, the editor will follow the journal's procedure for ethical review and may request further clarification from the author or require documentation of ethical approval.

6. Handling Ethical Concerns & Post-Publication Issues

If at any stage concerns regarding ethical oversight are raised, Pomorstvo will undertake a formal review of the matter in line with its misconduct and complaints/appeals policies.