

# General policy

The journal conducts its business under the general principle of consensus among the Managing editor and interim editors.

## Conflict of Interest Policy

The following policies were discussed and voted on at a meeting of the handling editors on January 12, 2021.

The following is a list of possible ways that a conflict of interest could arise:

1. X and one of the authors are related or in a personal relationship.
2. X has a joint research grant with one of the authors, or is applying for or is considering applying for such a grant.
3. X is collaborating with one of the authors on a topic closely related to the topic of the paper.
4. One of the authors is a former or current Research Student of X.
5. One of the authors works in the same Department as X.
6. One of the authors is a former PhD or Postdoctoral Supervisor of X.
7. X is a co-author with one of the authors the last 5 years

There may be other situations in which a conflict of interest may arise so this list may not be exhaustive.

Policy: Editors that have a conflict-of-interest (COI) should decline to handle the paper. Other editors with a COI should avoid looking at the discussion and email tabs of those papers and voting on the decision.

Managing editor with a COI should assign the submission to a handling editor to act as a surrogate who may then make a suggestion about who should end up being the handling editor. The handling editor can always reach out to the whole board via email to get suggestions.

General philosophy: handling editors should avoid and declare COI “as much as possible”. Handling editors should try to avoid asking referees that might have a COI. The instructions for reviewers reads: “unless you have a conflict of interest, such as being the author’s advisor or student”.

Policy: Handling and managing editors should not submit papers to Combinatorial Theory. Advisory editors may submit.

Note: It may be the case that authors that submit to CT later agree to become editors. The decision about what to do in this situation may need to be handled on a case by case basis, but

a general policy about how to handle these cases may eventually need to be developed. (Jan 12, 2021)