

Code of Practice of the EMS

Ethics Committee, Jiří Rákosník



EMS Presidents meeting, CIRM, Luminy, March 14–15, 2020



A brief history

- 2010–2012: The Ethics Committee (EthC) prepared the Code of Practice (CoP).
- October 29, 2012: The Executive Committee approved the CoP; to be revised within three years in the light of experience and of comments received.
- November 1, 2012: The CoP came into effect.
- April 2016: EthC published its *Comments on the EMS CoP*.
- February 2017: *Internal policy on conflicts of interest of the EMS Ethics Committee*
- May 2019: A formal rearrangement of the CoP:
 - *Preamble* replaced with a short factual introduction
 - *Procedures* forms a separate document
 - The rest of the *Preamble* and the history of the Ethics Committee form a new document *The founding of the Committee*



Adherence, endorsement

- The EMS recommends that the CoP be adhered to by all mathematicians, editors, and publishers of mathematics, especially those based in Europe, but more generally by all who are concerned with the publication, dissemination, and assessment of mathematical research.
- Appeal to the presidents: Promote the CoP!
 - Put the links to the web site of your society
 - Inform members of your society, publishers, community of mathematicians in general
 - Publish the CoP in your newsletter
 - Declare the adherence/endorsement of your society



Content

- Responsibilities of authors
- Responsibilities of editors and publishers
- Responsibilities of referees
- Responsibilities of users of bibliometric data

- Annexes
 - Procedures
 - Comments by the Committee on the Code of Practice
 - Internal policy on conflicts of interest of the EMS Ethics Committee
 - The founding of the Committee



Where to find the CoP?

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://euro-math-soc.eu>. The page header features the EMS logo and the text "European Mathematical Society". A search bar is present with the text "ems code of pra" entered. Below the header is a navigation menu with the following items: News, Inside EMS, Membership, Jobs, Services, Scientific Activities, Publishing House, and Solidarity. The "Publishing House" item is expanded, showing a dropdown menu with the following options: Journals, Books, and Code Of Practice. The "Code Of Practice" option is highlighted in blue. Below the navigation menu is a banner with the text "EMS COUNCIL 2016 ELECTS PORTOROZ AS ORGANIZER OF".



Where to find the CoP?

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://euro-math-soc.eu/committee/ethics>. The page header includes the EMS logo and the text "European Mathematical Society". A navigation menu contains links for News, Inside EMS, Membership, Jobs, Services, Scientific Activities, Publishing House, and Solidarity. The main content area is titled "Ethics" and includes a "Terms of Reference" section. This section states that the Ethics Committee focuses on promoting ethical behaviour in mathematical research, publication, and related matters. It lists four tasks: 1. To raise awareness of ethical issues in mathematics. 2. To maintain and update the Code of Practice and related documents. 3. To encourage journals and publishers to respond to allegations of unethical behaviour in a conscientious manner. 4. To provide a mechanism whereby researchers can ask the Committee to help them pursue claims of unethical behaviour. Below this, it mentions that the Committee may take up any other relevant questions related to ethics in connection with its work. It also provides contact information for the Chair of the Committee, Jiří Rákosník. At the bottom, there are several blue hyperlinks: "Code of Practice", "Procedures", "Comments by the Committee on the Code of Practice", "Internal policy on conflicts of interest of the EMS Ethics Committee", and "The founding of the Committee".

European Mathematical Society

News Inside EMS Membership Jobs Services Scientific Activities Publishing House Solidarity

View Content

Ethics

Terms of Reference:

The Ethics Committee focuses on promoting ethical behaviour in mathematical research, publication, and related matters. It will challenge unethical behaviour which includes, for example, plagiarism, duplicate publication, inadequate citations, inflated self-citations, dishonest refereeing, failing to address conflicts of interest or incorrect handling of submissions. The Committee is responsible for the following tasks:

1. To raise awareness of ethical issues in mathematics.
2. To maintain and update the Code of Practice and related documents.
3. To encourage journals and publishers to respond to allegations of unethical behaviour in a conscientious manner.
4. To provide a mechanism whereby researchers can ask the Committee to help them pursue claims of unethical behaviour.

The Committee may take up any other relevant questions related to ethics in connection with its work.

If you think you are a victim of unethical behaviour as described in the Code of Practice or the EMS Policy on Conflicts of Interest, you may contact the Chair of the Committee, [Jiří Rákosník](#).

[Code of Practice](#)

[Procedures](#)

[Comments by the Committee on the Code of Practice](#)

[Internal policy on conflicts of interest of the EMS Ethics Committee](#)

[The founding of the Committee](#)



Agenda of the EthC

- 2–4 submissions a year
 - alleged plagiarism, inappropriate citations, editors or referees misconducts
 - some submissions are assessed as not presenting an ethical issue
- Education of ethics in mathematics:
 - Cambridge University Ethics in Mathematics Project
 - 2 interesting articles in the last issue of the EMS Newsletter
 - possible cooperation with the Education Committee
- A new proposition from the EC: to formulate an ethical code for conferences
 - Is such a code specific for mathematics needed?
 - What should such code include?
 - Your feedback is welcome!