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Investigation

An initial decision should be taken by the editor, who should consult with or seek advice from the Editorial board or the publisher, if appropriate. Evidence should be gathered, while avoiding spreading any allegations beyond those who need to know

Minor breaches

Minor misconduct might be dealt with between the editor and the author, without the need to consult more widely. In any event, the author should be given the opportunity to respond to any allegations. If the author responds and is willing to correct the misconduct, the review process may continue.

Serious breaches

In case of serious misconduct, the editor should notify the author, and withdraw the paper from the further procedure of the review process. If the paper is already published, the withdrawal notification should be published at the web page of the journal, sent to author, and in some serious cases the employers of the accused should be notified. The editor, in consultation with the Editorial board or the publisher, should make the decision whether or not to involve the employers, either by examining the available evidence themselves or by further consultation with a limited number of experts.

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