Caucasus University
Regulations of the Scientific Journal of the School of Law

Tbilisi
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Article 1. General Provisions

1.1. The scientific journal of the School of Law of Caucasus University, **"Caucasus Law Journal"** (ISSN 3088-4446; e-ISSN 3088-4454), is an international peer-reviewed scholarly periodical.

1.2. The official publisher of the Journal is **Caucasus University LLC**.

1.3. The Journal is published twice a year in English. Taking into account the aims and needs of the Journal, a special (supplementary) issue may be prepared and published by decision of the Editorial Board.

1.4. Publication of articles in the Journal is free of charge; Publication in the Journal includes both print and electronic publication. Copyright in the manuscript remains with the author, who grants the Journal the right of first publication and subsequent non-exclusive distribution pursuant to the relevant publishing agreement. The author's moral rights are protected in accordance with applicable law.

1.5. The Journal provides immediate open access to published works, free of charge and without registration requirements. Manuscripts are published under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) license, subject to the author's appropriate consent. This license permits reproduction, distribution, translation, adaptation, and commercial use of the work, subject to the attribution requirements and other terms specified in the license. Third-party materials not covered by this license remain subject to the applicable rights and permission requirements.

1.6. These Regulations shall be proactively published on the official website of the Journal: **https://cu.edu.ge/en/schoolss/school-of-law/csl-research/kavkasiis-samartlis-zhurnali-caucasus-law-journal-clj**

Article 2. Aims and Objectives of the Journal

2.1. The aim of the Journal is to publish practical, scholarly, and comparative legal research in the field of law and to promote the further development of academic discussion.

2.2. The objective of the Journal is to attain a high level of academic standing and reputation internationally and to establish itself among internationally recognized scholarly journals.

2.3. Through its scholarly and research activities, the Journal promotes the integration of Georgian law into the European and international legal environment and contributes to the establishment of an international academic platform. It also seeks to identify relevant areas of research and attract experts in the respective fields, including authors and reviewers.

2.4. The Journal may publish the following types of works: academic reviews; scholarly articles and analyses of legal practice.

Article 3. Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board

3.1. The activities of the Journal shall be organized by the Journal's editorial body, consisting of the Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board.

3.2. The **Editor-in-Chief** shall be responsible for the overall academic quality of the Journal and for ensuring that editorial activities are conducted in accordance with the established standards.

3.3. The Editor-in-Chief shall be appointed and dismissed by the President of the University upon the recommendation of the Council of the School of Law. The Editor-in-Chief shall have appropriate experience in the operation of a scholarly journal.

3.3.1. Taking into account the relevant fields of specialization, the Editor-in-Chief shall attract highly qualified researchers and promote the Journal.

3.3.2. The Editor-in-Chief shall distribute responsibilities among the members of the Editorial Board.

3.3.3**.** The Editor-in-Chief shall independently represent the Journal in relations with third parties.

3.3.4. The Editor-in-Chief shall organize and conduct meetings of the Editorial Board.

3.3.5. The Editor-in-Chief shall ensure the announcement of calls for scholarly articles and the implementation of procedures for their submission and receipt.

3.3.6. In cooperation with the Academic Writing Center, the Editor-in-Chief shall ensure that scholarly articles are checked using the anti-plagiarism software **Turnitin**.

3.3.7. The Editor-in-Chief shall ensure the selection of reviewers, oversee the substantive and organizational aspects of the peer-review process, and arrange for articles to be submitted for blind peer review.
3.3.8. For the purpose of determining the Journal's development policy, the Editor-in-Chief, together with the Dean of the School and/or the School Council, shall ensure the organization of periodic meetings of the Editorial Board.
3.3.9. Coordinates the technical editing process of the Journal, including ensuring the assignment of a unique Digital Object Identifier (DOI) to each scholarly article accepted for publication and its appropriate display in both the electronic and print versions of the article.
3.3.10. The Editor-in-Chief shall ensure the overall coordination of the Journal's editorial process, including the systematic management of its operational activities, monitoring of publication deadlines, and the timely announcement of calls for papers and implementation of submission procedures.
3.3.11. The Editor-in-Chief shall communicate with authors by electronic and telephone means, inform them of identified deficiencies, and provide information on the subsequent stages of article review and publication.
3.3.12. The Editor-in-Chief shall ensure communication with national and international databases, including for the purpose of securing the Journal's indexing in international academic databases.
3.3.13. The Editor-in-Chief shall address other matters related to the activities of the Journal that do not conflict with applicable legislation or the internal regulations of the University.
3.3.14. Chairs meetings of the Editorial Board, moderates discussions, ensures compliance with the agenda, and facilitates the objective and impartial consideration of matters under discussion and the orderly conduct of meetings.
3.4. The Journal shall be supported in technical and publishing matters by auxiliary editorial staff, including a language editor/proofreader, layout editor, designer, and other personnel as required.
3.4.1. The **Editorial Board** shall be chaired by the Editor-in-Chief and shall consist of no fewer than 9 (nine) members.
3.4.2. The Editorial Board shall comprise Georgian and international scholars, recognized academic staff, and legal practitioners with acknowledged scholarly or professional experience in the relevant field of law.
3.4.3. A member of the Editorial Board shall hold a doctoral degree in law, possess relevant scholarly research experience, and have a record of academic publications. By way of exception, a person who does not hold a doctoral degree in law may be appointed as a member of the Editorial Board if they currently serve as Editor-in-Chief of a peer-reviewed scholarly law journal indexed in Scopus, the Web of Science Core Collection, or ERIH PLUS, or of another international peer-reviewed scholarly law journal, and have demonstrated relevant experience in both scholarly research and editorial activities.
3.5. **The powers and responsibilities of the Editorial Board shall be as follows:**
3.5.1. To participate in defining the main directions for the development of the Journal's scientific and editorial policies.
3.5.2. To contribute to enhancing the Journal's scientific quality, developing international academic cooperation, and promoting the Journal.
3.5.3. Where necessary, to provide the Editor-in-Chief with advice on the scientific quality, thematic relevance, and peer-review matters concerning individual manuscripts.
3.5.4. To recommend reviewers with appropriate subject-specific expertise and participate in developing thematic directions for special issues.
3.5.5. To participate in the consideration of significant matters relating to publication ethics, academic integrity, and the Journal's scientific activities, within the scope of the powers conferred by these Regulations.

3.5.6. In the event of a conflict of interest involving the Editor-in-Chief, to designate, in accordance with the procedure established by these Regulations, an independent member responsible for the editorial handling of the relevant manuscript and for making the final decision regarding its publication.

Article 4. Procedure for the Submission and Selection of Manuscripts

4.1. Manuscripts containing scholarly novelty and addressing current issues of law shall be eligible for publication in the Journal.

4.2. An article may be submitted by a single author or jointly by co-authors. The total number of authors of one article, including all co-authors, shall not exceed 4 (four).

4.2.1. The following persons shall be eligible to submit an article for publication: academic and invited staff of Caucasus University; academic staff of higher education institutions in Georgia and of foreign universities and research centers; independent researchers; doctoral students; and legal practitioners.

4.3. Manuscripts for publication in the Journal shall be selected either through an open call for papers or on the basis of a special invitation extended to an author by a member of the editorial body.

4.4. The call for papers shall be announced through the publication of relevant information on the University's official website, the Journal's electronic platform (Open Journal Systems – OJS), and social media.

4.5. Each stage of the selection process, the applicable deadlines, and the procedures for conducting the process shall be determined by the Journal's editorial body and monitored by the Editor-in-Chief.

Article 5. Manuscript Submission Procedure and Formatting Standards

5.1. The author application form and manuscript intended for publication shall be submitted through the Journal's official electronic platform (Open Journal Systems – OJS). In the event of a technical malfunction of the platform that prevents submission, the author may alternatively submit the application form and manuscript to the Journal's official email address: csljournal@cu.edu.ge. The Journal's editorial office shall ensure that manuscripts received through this alternative procedure are subsequently recorded in the electronic platform. Additional technical requirements for manuscript submission may be established in the Author Guidelines or on the Journal's official website.

5.2. A scholarly manuscript shall not contain discriminatory content, hate speech, unethical assessments, insulting statements, or personal criticism.

5.3. The content of the manuscript shall be presented in compliance with the requirements for the protection of third parties' personal data.

5.4. The manuscript shall be submitted in MS Word format and prepared using Times New Roman font. As a general rule, the manuscript shall not exceed 20 pages. The font size shall be 11 pt and line spacing 1.0. The upper and lower margins shall be 2.5 cm, and the left and right margins shall also be 2.5 cm.

5.5. Citation, footnote, and bibliography formatting in the Journal shall comply with the rules established by these Regulations.

5.6. Plagiarism is prohibited in manuscripts submitted for publication in the Journal. The author shall ensure that the sources of all information contained in the manuscript are cited accurately and correctly.

5.7. The manuscript shall include:

5.7.1. **Author information:** full name, academic degree (where applicable), institutional affiliation (where applicable), academic or professional position or status, and ORCID iD. Where an institutional affiliation is indicated, the official name of the institution and the country shall be specified. Authors without an institutional affiliation may indicate their status as Independent Researcher. This information shall be provided for each author in both the author application form and the published article. The application form shall additionally include each author's full postal address, country, and email address;

5.7.2. **Title** – the title shall be presented in bold type.

5.7.3. **An abstract** of 200–250 words, outlining the research objective, methodology, principal findings, and conclusions.

5.7.3.1. Each scholarly article published in the Journal shall be accompanied by information blocks in English and Georgian, containing the information specified in paragraphs 5.7.1–5.7.4 of these Regulations. The Georgian-language abstract shall correspond in substance to the English-language version; however, an identical word count shall not be required.
5.7.3.2. International authors shall not be required to prepare the Georgian-language information block. The Journal's editorial office shall be responsible for translating the relevant information into Georgian and ensuring its linguistic accuracy.
5.7.4. **Keywords** – 4–6 keywords or terms reflecting the main content and research issues addressed in the manuscript. The keywords shall not reproduce the article title in whole or in substance.
5.7.5. **Introduction** – including the relevance and significance of the subject matter.
5.7.6. **Main text.**
5.7.7. **Conclusion** – including findings, possible recommendations, and future perspectives.
5.7.8. At the end of the manuscript, before the reference list, the following three separate declarations shall be provided: Funding, Conflict of Interest, and Declaration of Generative AI Use. Each declaration shall state whether the relevant circumstances exist or do not exist. Where funding has been received, the author shall identify the funding organization and, where applicable, the grant number. Where a conflict of interest exists, its nature shall be disclosed. Where generative artificial intelligence has been used, the author shall identify the system used and describe the purpose of its use. These declarations are mandatory for all scholarly articles.
5.8. Footnotes shall be formatted in Times New Roman, 9 pt, with line spacing of 1.0.
5.9. **Abbreviations (Acronyms), Main Text Formatting, and Citation Standards**
5.9.1. **Citation**
5.9.1.1. Commonly accepted and well-established abbreviations and acronyms may be used in manuscripts. Less familiar abbreviations or acronyms shall be defined upon first use by stating the full term followed by the relevant abbreviation or acronym in parentheses. Thereafter, the abbreviation or acronym may be used independently throughout the manuscript.
5.9.1.2. When citing a normative act, its full title, date of adoption, number, where applicable, and the source of its official publication or availability shall be indicated. Where an electronic source is used, the relevant official or otherwise reliable electronic resource shall be specified.
5.9.1.3. Latin terms and other non-English expressions shall be italicised where appropriate. The meaning of less familiar terms shall be explained in the main text or in a footnote, taking into account the context and purpose of the research.
5.9.1.4. A quotation shall be placed within quotation marks, with the corresponding footnote formatted in accordance with the rules set out below. When citing the source of a paraphrase or of an individual idea, the appropriate term equivalent to “see” or “compare” shall be used. “Compare” shall be used where the author wishes to refer to a differing position.
5.9.1.5. The main text shall include only information or analysis directly related to the title of the manuscript or necessary for achieving its stated purpose. Additional information may be provided in footnotes.
5.9.1.6. At the end of quoted text, punctuation marks - including a full stop, colon, semicolon, question mark, and exclamation mark - shall be placed before the closing quotation mark where they conclude the sentence, and after the quotation mark, depending on context, where the quotation concerns only an individual word or phrase.
5.9.1.7. Where a quotation mark, punctuation mark, and footnote marker occur together after a word, the following sequence shall be observed: 1. quotation mark; 2. punctuation mark; 3. footnote marker, unless the footnote refers specifically to a term within the quotation; At the end of a quoted sentence, the sequence shall be: 1. punctuation mark; 2. quotation mark; 3. footnote marker. Two quotation marks shall not be placed consecutively. In the case of parentheses, different applicable conventions may be used.
5.10. When using literary or scholarly sources, the following information shall be provided:

5.10.1. **For a book** – When citing an entire book, the reference shall include the author's surname and initial(s), the full title of the book (without quotation marks), the edition number (except for the first edition, where applicable), the volume (if applicable), the place of publication, the year of publication, and the total number of pages.
Example: Dixon M., *Textbook on International Law*, 7th ed., Oxford, 2013, 393.
5.10.2. When citing a specific page or page range of a book, the reference shall include the author's surname and initial(s), the full title of the book (without quotation marks), the edition number (except for the first edition, where applicable), the volume (if applicable), the place of publication, the year of publication, and the relevant page number or page range (without the abbreviation "p." or "pp.").
Example: Johns L., *Politics and International Law: Making, Breaking, and Upholding Global Rules*, Cambridge, 2022, 55–71.
5.10.3. **Articles in Edited Volumes** – The reference shall include the author's surname and initial(s), the full title of the article (without quotation marks), the full title of the edited volume (without quotation marks), the editor's surname and initial(s), followed by the designation "ed." or "eds.", the volume number (if applicable), the place of publication, the year of publication, and the relevant page number or page range (without the abbreviation "p." or "pp.").
Example: Bouwer K., The United Kingdom. The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Private Law, Kysar D.A., Lim E. (eds.), New York, 2026, 590–606.
5.10.4. **Journal Articles** – The reference shall include the author's surname and initial(s), the full title of the article (without quotation marks), the full title of the journal or its established abbreviation (without quotation marks), the year of publication, the volume number, the issue number (if applicable), and the page range of the article or the specific page cited (without the abbreviation "p." or "pp.").
Example 1: Bassiouni M.Ch. A Draft International Criminal Code and Draft Statute for an International Criminal Court. J. Connecticut Insurance Law Journal Association at the University of Connecticut School of Law, 2019, 5, 8, 315-373.
Example 2: Zoidze B., Samartlebrivi Usafrtkhoeba: Tsneba da Gamokhatvis Formebi (Upiratesad Sakartvelos Sakonstitutsio Sasamartlos Gadatsqvetilebebis Analizi) [Legal Security: Concept and Forms of Expression (Primarily an Analysis of Decisions of the Constitutional Court of Georgia)]. Sajaro Samartlis Zhurnali [Journal of Public Law], 2024, 1, 5 [in Georgian].
5.10.4.1. When citing scholarly articles and other electronic sources available online, the electronic address and the date of last access shall be provided in accordance with paragraph 5.14 of these Regulations, in addition to the bibliographic details required under this Article.
5.11. When citing judicial decisions, the official citation standard established by the relevant court or other competent authority shall be followed. In the absence of such a standard, the citation shall contain sufficient information to enable the decision to be clearly distinguished and located.
5.12. **For Decisions of National Courts**
5.12.1. The official national citation style shall be observed. Where there is no uniform national approach, the author shall follow the basic rules set out below.
5.12.2. When citing court decisions, the author shall ensure consistency with regard to the following situations: 1. the decision has been published; 2. the decision is accessible through an official electronic source; 3. the decision is available only in the court archive. A uniform approach shall be applied throughout the manuscript.
Examples: Decision of the Administrative Chamber of the Supreme Court of Georgia of 8 April 2020 in Case No. BS-1163 (K-18); Order and Writ of Execution of the Civil Chamber of Tbilisi City Court of 25 March 2019, No. 2/5856-19.
5.13. **Citation of Documents of International Organizations**
5.13.1. Documents of international organizations shall be cited in the style officially used by the relevant international organization, as indicated on its official website.

5.13.2. **Citation of conventions and international treaties:** conventions and international treaties shall be cited, for example, as follows: 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, *International Legal Materials*, 1985, 1520.
5.14. **Citation of Electronic Sources:** When citing an electronic source, the author's surname and initial(s) (where available), the full title of the source (without quotation marks), and the name of the relevant website (where appropriate) shall be indicated. The electronic address shall be preceded by "Available from:", followed by the date of last access in square brackets, using the format [Accessed 27 May 2025]. The date shown is for illustrative purposes only.
Example: Crawford J., The ILC's Draft Statute for an International Criminal Tribunal. Available from: https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-journal-of-international-law/article/ilcs-draft-statute-for-an-international-criminal-tribunal/ED43650C2A7FBD3F88524F4562BD6AAC [Accessed 27 May 2025].
5.15. **Translated Source:** surname and initial(s) of the author(s) of the relevant work; full title of the work, without quotation marks; [part, section, volume]; surname and initial(s) of the translator(s), followed in parentheses by their status as translator/translators; surname and initial(s) of the editor(s), where applicable, followed by "ed." in parentheses; place of publication; year; total number of pages.
Example: Kropholler J., German Civil Code, Darjania T., Chechelashvili Z. (translators), Chachanidze E., Darjania T., Totladze L. (eds.), 13th ed., 2014, 530.
5.15.1. The bibliographic details of foreign-language sources shall be provided in the original language or in the language of the edition consulted by the author. Where a source uses a non-Latin script, the author's first name and surname, the title of the work, and other relevant bibliographic details shall be transliterated into the Latin alphabet. An English translation shall be provided in square brackets following the title of any non-English-language work. Where no official English title exists, a translation accurately reflecting the meaning of the original title shall be used. Transliteration and translation shall be carried out consistently and uniformly.
5.16. The pages of the bibliography shall be numbered consecutively with the main text of the manuscript. The bibliography shall be formatted in Times New Roman, 10 pt, with line spacing of 1.0, 0 pt spacing before each paragraph, and 6 pt spacing after each paragraph.
5.17. The bibliography shall be presented as a single consolidated list. Sources shall be arranged alphabetically by the authors' surnames or, where no author is identified, by the titles of the sources. The alphabetical arrangement of sources written in non-Latin scripts shall be determined by the Latin transliteration of the relevant bibliographic details. Multiple works by the same author shall be arranged by year of publication, from the most recent to the earliest. Case law shall be presented in a separate section entitled *Case Law*, in which decisions shall be grouped alphabetically by the names of the courts and, within each court, arranged chronologically from the most recent to the earliest, in accordance with the applicable official citation standards. The name of the publisher shall not be indicated in footnotes or bibliographic entries.
5.17.1. The language of publication of each source published in a language other than English shall be indicated in English, in square brackets, at the end of the bibliographic entry (e.g., [in Georgian], [in German], [in French], [in Italian]). This requirement shall not apply to case law, which shall be cited in accordance with the applicable official citation standard. Each source shall appear only once in the bibliography, while the specific pages cited shall be indicated in the relevant footnotes.
5.17.2. A manuscript submitted in violation of the requirements established by these Regulations and the applicable citation rules shall not proceed to the plagiarism screening and peer-review stages. If the author fails to remedy the identified deficiencies within the period specified in paragraph 6.3 of these Regulations, the manuscript shall not be considered for publication.

Article 6. Submission of Manuscripts, Plagiarism Screening and Peer Review

6.1. Following the submission of a scholarly manuscript, the Editor-in-Chief shall conduct an initial assessment of its compliance with the formal admissibility requirements, citation standards, the Journal's editorial policy, aims, and thematic scope. This assessment shall also include a preliminary evaluation of the manuscript's scientific novelty, research relevance, methodological soundness, and overall academic quality.

6.2. The Editor-in-Chief may consult a member of the Editorial Board or an expert in the relevant field. This assessment constitutes the initial editorial screening stage and shall not replace independent scholarly peer review.

6.3. Where a manuscript contains technical deficiencies and does not comply with the standards established by these Regulations, the author shall be notified accordingly and granted a reasonable period, not exceeding 7 (seven) calendar days, to remedy such deficiencies.

6.4. Manuscripts shall be screened for academic integrity and textual similarity using the Turnitin system, with an indicative similarity threshold of 20%. Exceeding this threshold shall not result in the automatic rejection of a manuscript but shall require an additional substantive assessment, taking into account properly cited quotations, bibliographic references, legislative acts, judicial decisions, and other legal materials. The Turnitin report shall serve as an auxiliary tool, while any determination concerning compliance with academic integrity requirements shall be based on a substantive assessment of the manuscript.

6.4.1. Where a manuscript is deemed admissible, it shall be anonymised and submitted to at least 2 (two) reviewers, who shall submit their reports within 4 (four) weeks. Where justified by the circumstances, the Editor-in-Chief may extend this period. This period applies solely to the submission of reviewers' reports and does not constitute a deadline for the Journal's final decision on the manuscript. The principle of anonymity shall be maintained throughout the peer-review process and thereafter, including when reviewers' reports or other related materials are disclosed or distributed.

6.5. Where necessary, including in the assessment of an interdisciplinary manuscript, the Editor-in-Chief may refer the manuscript to one or more additional reviewers possessing appropriate expertise in the relevant field. Where the initial reviewers' recommendations concerning publication differ materially, including where one recommends publication and the other recommends rejection, the Editor-in-Chief shall refer the manuscript to a third reviewer selected in accordance with paragraph 6.6. The Editor-in-Chief shall assess all reviewers' reports when making the final decision in accordance with paragraph 7.1. The review process shall be conducted in accordance with the Double-Blind Peer Review procedure.

6.6. A reviewer shall be selected on the basis of subject-matter expertise and may be a person possessing relevant practical and/or research experience or qualifications in the field to which the manuscript under review relates. Where the manuscript is interdisciplinary, reviewers possessing expertise in the relevant different fields may be selected for its evaluation.

6.7. Where a reviewer is unable to assess the scholarly manuscript within the prescribed period or lacks the appropriate subject-matter expertise, the reviewer shall notify the Editor-in-Chief thereof in writing within a reasonable period.

6.8. Reviewers shall be guided by the established manuscript assessment criteria and shall submit a written assessment report to the Editor-in-Chief using the ***Blind Peer Review Report Form (Annex No. 1)***, for the purpose of subsequently informing the author of any deficiencies requiring correction.

6.9. For the purpose of ensuring an effective peer-review process, a reviewer may seek specific guidance from the Editor-in-Chief. Such consultation shall not be regarded as a violation of the principles of independence or impartiality of the review.

6.10. A reviewer may issue one of the following recommendations:

6.10.1. Acceptance for publication without revisions;

6.10.2. Acceptance for publication subject to minor revisions;

6.10.3. Substantial revision and resubmission for further peer review;

6.10.4. Rejection of the manuscript for publication.
6.11. A reviewer's recommendation that deficiencies be remedied shall be accompanied by the relevant comments and explanations concerning the manuscript under review.
6.12. Where reviewers recommend that deficiencies in the manuscript be remedied prior to publication, the Editor-in-Chief shall communicate with the author and coordinate the process of making the required revisions. The Editor-in-Chief shall assess the extent to which the author has taken the reviewers' recommendations into account.
6.13. The submission of a scientific manuscript by the Editor-in-Chief, a member of the Editorial Board, or any other person involved in the publication process shall not constitute grounds for preventing its publication. In such cases, the person concerned shall not participate in the selection of reviewers, the management of the review process, or the decision regarding the publication of their own manuscript. Where the Editor-in-Chief submits a manuscript or has a conflict of interest in relation to a manuscript, the Editorial Board shall designate an independent member without a conflict of interest to oversee the editorial review of the relevant manuscript and make the final decision regarding its publication. The manuscript shall be considered in accordance with the principles of independence, impartiality, and the avoidance of conflicts of interest.
6.14. By decision of the Editor-in-Chief, in order to ensure compliance with the Journal's publication schedule, a manuscript may be published in the subsequent issue where implementation of the reviewers' recommendations requires a substantial period of time that may delay the timely publication of the Journal, or where there is another objective ground for publishing the manuscript in the subsequent issue.
6.15. Where publication of a manuscript is refused, the reviewers' reports shall, upon the author's request, be sent to the author subject to the preservation of reviewer anonymity.
6.16. Upon the author's request, official confirmation of acceptance of the manuscript for publication may also be issued in the form of a certificate.

Article 7. Decision on Publication of a Manuscript
7.1. The final decision to publish or reject a manuscript shall be made by the Editor-in-Chief on the basis of an assessment of the reviewers' reports, the scientific quality of the manuscript, academic integrity, and its compliance with the Journal's editorial policy, except in cases involving a conflict of interest as provided for in these Regulations.
7.2. The Editor-in-Chief may consult members of the Editorial Board or other experts in the relevant field. The approval or vote of the Editorial Board shall not be required for such a decision.
7.3. A positive decision regarding publication shall mean that the manuscript may be published either without changes or following appropriate revisions and additions made by the author or with the author's consent, taking into account the recommendations of reviewers and editors.
7.4. The decision to publish or reject a manuscript shall be communicated to the author in writing through the Journal's official electronic platform or by email. The decision and its principal grounds shall be recorded on the Journal's official electronic platform or in the relevant editorial documentation.
7.5. Prior to publication, the manuscript shall undergo technical and language editing. The editorial office may suggest revisions to the manuscript's title, individual formulations, and structure, while preserving its scholarly content. The final edited version shall be sent to the author for review.
7.6. Any conflict of interest involving persons participating in editorial activities shall be disclosed in advance of any editorial decision, including a decision concerning the publication of a manuscript, or, where prior disclosure is not possible, immediately upon identification of the conflict of interest.

Article 8. Publication Ethics, Academic Integrity and Response to Misconduct
8.1. The Journal's publication ethics rules are intended to ensure that the publishing process is conducted in accordance with the principles of academic integrity, scholarly independence, impartiality, transparency, and responsible publishing practice.

8.2. All persons involved in the Journal's publishing process, including authors, reviewers, the Editor-in-Chief, members of the Editorial Board, and any other persons involved, shall comply with the principles of academic ethics and integrity.
8.3. The author shall be responsible for the originality of the manuscript and for the accuracy of the facts, data, conclusions, arguments, and sources presented therein. Plagiarism, self-plagiarism, fabrication or falsification of data, duplicate or simultaneous publication, improper attribution of authorship, citation manipulation, and any other violation of academic integrity are prohibited.
8.4. Only a person who has made a significant intellectual contribution to the conduct of the research, the preparation of the manuscript, or its substantive academic revision shall be recognized as an author. A co-author, like an author, shall be equally responsible for the content of the manuscript and compliance with the principles of academic integrity.
8.5. An artificial intelligence system may not be identified as an author or co-author of a manuscript. Where artificial intelligence is used, full responsibility for the content and accuracy of the manuscript, the reliability and proper use of sources, and compliance with academic integrity requirements shall rest with the author.
8.6. A reviewer shall evaluate a manuscript objectively and impartially and shall maintain strict confidentiality. A reviewer shall not use information obtained in the course of the review process for personal, professional, or any other improper purpose. Where a conflict of interest exists, the reviewer shall immediately notify the Editor-in-Chief.
8.7. Editorial decisions concerning the acceptance, peer review, publication, or rejection of a manuscript shall be made solely on the basis of its scientific quality, originality, relevance, methodological soundness, and alignment with the Journal's scope, in accordance with the principles of independence and impartiality.
8.8. An author, reviewer, the Editor-in-Chief, or a member of the Editorial Board shall disclose in advance, or, where this is not possible, immediately upon becoming aware of it, any circumstance that may affect their independence or impartiality. A person having a conflict of interest shall not participate in the assessment of the relevant manuscript or in the decision-making process concerning its publication.
8.9. Where information concerning a possible violation of academic ethics is received, any interested person shall be entitled to contact the Journal's editorial office through its official email address and request examination of the matter. The Editorial Board shall consider the submission within a reasonable period, examine the relevant circumstances, and, where necessary, provide the author or any other interested person with an opportunity to submit an explanation.
8.10. Where a violation of publication ethics is confirmed, the Editorial Board shall be entitled to decide on the application of appropriate measures, taking into account the nature and severity of the violation. With regard to an unpublished manuscript, the final editorial decision shall be made by the Editor-in-Chief in accordance with paragraph 7.1 of these Regulations.
8.11. The author shall be responsible for the opinions, assessments, and conclusions expressed in a manuscript published in the Journal. The Journal, the Editor-in-Chief, and the Editorial Board shall not be liable for the individual views expressed by authors, except where a violation of publication ethics by the Journal has been established.
8.12. Where a violation relating to a published manuscript is confirmed, the decision of the Editorial Board, accompanied by appropriate reasoning, shall be published on the Journal's official electronic platform or, where necessary, in the subsequent issue of the Journal.

Article 9. Final Provisions

9.1. These Regulations shall enter into force upon their approval by the School Council.
9.2. Any amendment to these Regulations may be adopted in accordance with the procedure established for their adoption.
9.3. Compliance with these Regulations shall be supervised by the Dean of the School of Law.

Annex No. 1. Blind Peer Review Report

CAUCASUS LAW JOURNAL
PEER REVIEW REPORT

Article Information (to be completed by the Editorial Office)

Article Title, Manuscript ID:

Evaluation Criteria

No.	Criterion	Yes	Partly	No
1.	The subject of the manuscript is consistent with the scope of the Journal	☐	☐	☐
2.	The manuscript demonstrates scientific novelty and originality	☐	☐	☐
3.	The manuscript makes a significant contribution to the relevant field of law	☐	☐	☐
4.	The research aims and objectives are clearly defined	☐	☐	☐
5.	The research methodology is appropriate to the stated aims and objectives	☐	☐	☐
6.	The academic literature and legal sources used are relevant and adequately analysed	☐	☐	☐
7.	The legal reasoning and argumentation are logical and well-substantiated	☐	☐	☐
8.	The conclusions and recommendations follow from the research findings and are adequately substantiated	☐	☐	☐
9.	The manuscript is well-structured and logically organised	☐	☐	☐
10.	The manuscript complies with academic writing and citation requirements	☐	☐	☐

Overall Recommendation

Based on the above assessment, I recommend:

- ☐ Acceptance for publication without revisions
- ☐ Acceptance for publication after minor revisions
- ☐ Substantial revision and resubmission for further peer review
- ☐ Rejection (not recommended for publication)

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations for the Author

Confidential Comments to the Editor (Optional)

Date:

Reviewer (identity withheld from the author):