General policy

The journal conducts its business under the general principle of consensus among the editors.

Conflict of Interest Policy

The following policy was discussed and voted on by members of the editorial board on October 21, 2024.

The following is a list of possible ways that a conflict of interest (COI) could arise between an editor X and a journal submission:
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 who have a COI should recuse themselves from the submission using the editorial software, so that they will not see any review data, discussion, and emails associated with the submission. 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 front-end managing editors should not submit papers to Combinatorial Theory. Advisory editors and production editors may submit. It may be the case that new editors have "legacy papers" still under review. Such papers will not have to be withdrawn.

General philosophy: Advisory editors do not have access to the editorial information of any papers. Production editors do not have access to the reviewer information of papers and do not vote on papers. Editorial software is set up in such a manner that new editors do not have access to any information regarding "legacy" papers or any papers of theirs that have been reviewed in the past.