GALA JOURNAL OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Editorial Document (A.3)

6. Editorial Ethics Guidance

Core Principles for Editors

Editors of the *GALA Journal of Applied Sciences* must adhere to established publication ethics standards (such as COPE guidelines) to ensure integrity across all editorial actions:

- **Editorial Independence:** Decisions must be based solely on scientific merit, relevance, and originality, without commercial or institutional influence.
- **Confidentiality:** Editors must treat all submitted manuscripts and reviewer communications as strictly confidential documents.
- **Managing Misconduct:** If allegations of plagiarism, duplicate publication, data fabrication, or authorship disputes arise, editors must follow standard COPE flowcharts to investigate and take appropriate action (e.g., requesting corrections, issuing retractions, or contacting author institutions).
- **Recusal:** Editors must recuse themselves from handling manuscripts authored by colleagues, current collaborators, or personal connections.