

Rejected manuscripts

There are two types of rejections: **Reject & resubmit** and **Reject**.

Reject & Resubmit

In the case of the **Reject & resubmit** decisions, authors have two months to complete the revision process and resubmit the manuscript. This manuscript will be automatically assigned by the system to the same Associate Editor and most likely the same reviewers. Please be aware that 30% to 50% of reviewers do not agree to provide additional review, so new reviewers are often appointed. In the case of **Reject & resubmit**, it is expected the authors will address all their responses to reviewer comments in a separate file. The Manuscript Central will automatically merge all submitted files into a single one. Therefore, please do not submit cover letters because it identifies your names.

Reject

In the case of a **Reject** decision, authors are rather not encouraged to resubmit the manuscript to the same journal, but of course they can do it if they choose to do so. We are trying our best to provide a fair and objective review. However nothing ever is perfect, so mistakes in the decision process can be made.

To be maximally objective we will assign a different Associate Editor and different reviewers who are not biased with previous negative decisions. Our experience tells us that once a reviewer recommended rejection it would not be that easy to convince him/her to change the decision. (Very few people want to admit that they are wrong.)

Therefore, in the resubmission of the previously rejected manuscript, the authors should follow these rules:

- (1) All comments from previous reviews should be taken very seriously. This is very valuable feedback for improving the manuscript. Reviewers are not always right, but they always give valuable feedback (sometimes between the lines).
- (2) The revised manuscript should defend itself, and no additional arguments should be provided. Please notice that these additional comments will not be included in published material, and it is the authors' duties to include all essential information **within** the manuscript.
- (3) Of course an additional request about the review process (request for new AE, exclusion of certain individuals for reviews, etc.) should be sent as a separate email to the EIC or to journal administrator. Please do not provide this information in the cover letter because Manuscript Central has a tendency to append cover letters to the PDF file with the manuscript, and such papers cannot be sent for review.
- (4) The manuscript should be submitted without any comments and discussion to the previous review process, so authors may have an objective and fair review with a fresh start. Including comments to the previous review may unnecessarily inform both the Associate Editor and reviewers that this paper was previously rejected.

Conclusion

There are two major differences for these two types of rejections:

- (1) A manuscript with **Reject&resubmit** decision has a two month deadline for resubmission, and it is expected that authors will respond to all comments from the previous reviews
- (2) A manuscript with a **Reject** decision has no deadline for resubmission, but when it is resubmitted, all traces which could indicate that manuscript was already rejected should be removed from the submission.