In addition to the following standards, Reviewers are encouraged and expected to read the JoSS Publishing Ethics and Malpractice Statement (PEMS) and the Summary of the JoSS Publication Process, to familiarize themselves with their functional roles and ethical responsibilities.

**Contribution to Editorial Decisions**

Peer review assists the Technical Area Editors (TAEs) and other Editors in making their publishing decisions and, through editorial communications with authors, may assist authors in improving their manuscripts. Peer review is an essential component of formal scholarly communication and lies at the heart of scientific endeavor. JoSS shares the view of many that all scholars who wish to contribute to the scientific process have an obligation to conduct a fair share of reviewing.

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Reviews should be conducted objectively, without bias or prejudice, and observations should be formulated clearly with supporting arguments so that authors can use them for improving the manuscript. Personal criticism of the authors is inappropriate.
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