



## **Submission Guidelines for the *MORS Journal of Wargaming***

The *MORS Journal of Wargaming* is the premier research publication for articles on the art, practice, and science of professional gaming and related fields. It is peer-reviewed and broad-based. Our goal is to advance the field of professional games, which we define as games played by those with a professional stake in the subject of the game.

While the title of the Journal is “wargaming”, we do not limit discussion of professional games by either their type or purpose. Topics can range from education to analyses, and games can range from board games to conference-scale policy games. Articles do not have to involve a defense or military subject. The Journal seeks any and all articles that develop the art and science of professional games, to include articles on the design, development, production, play and analysis of games. We welcome articles on how a game integrates narrative into its design as well as articles analyzing the statistical outcomes of a series of educational games. Submissions that describe the play and results of a particular game are also welcome; we refer to these as Game Reports.

Submissions should be clear and in plain English, logical and well argued, with supporting references and specifics on game design, outcome, or analysis. Articles can include suggestions for further reading.

The Journal will be published online bi-annually but may expand depending on demand and numbers of submissions.

We encourage articles to be:

- Well-written
- Rooted in practical experience
- Logically and traceably argued from first principles, if the article is theoretical in nature
- Inclusive of data collection and reporting protocols, if based on experiment
- Aware of the work of others as evidenced by appropriate and extensive citations

There are several categories of articles that we are interested in including in the journal:

- Practical examples of played-through games that are well documented and reported
- Theoretical articles covering underlying principles of professional games
- Articles on topics in game design including adjudication, mechanics, or scenario
- Examples of applications of professional games, including their role in larger research endeavors

### **Author Instructions:**

Submission must be made through the ScholarOne Manuscript Central Site:

<https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/morswargaming>.

All authors and co-authors will need to create a ScholarOne account in order to be added to a submission. The first author should be the principal investigator, or the person with the largest contribution to the writing of the article. Please be inclusive of all contributors when listing authors.

Submitting authors are responsible for ensuring that any submission is:

- Coordinated with anyone who employs them
- Coordinated and approved by their co-authors



- Properly released from any copyright claims or not subject to copyright claims
- Unclassified and cleared for public release (when written by cleared personnel)
- Not under review for publication elsewhere or previously published commercially (i.e., private posting to websites and similar does not count as publication.)
- Free of any real or perceived conflict of interest.

By submitting their paper, authors are attesting to the above conditions. When in doubt ask the MORS staff for assistance. Authors are welcome to add disclaimers or caveats to the paper as footnotes to either the first sentence or their names in the byline.

### **Editorial Policy:**

Papers should be as long as necessary, but not longer. Ensuring that the paper focuses on one topic or concept should keep it brief. If you want to discuss multiple topics or results, submit multiple papers.

Papers should be 10-35 pages (double-spaced, 12-point font). Longer or shorter papers will be considered but the shorter or longer format should be required by the content of the paper.

Sections should be capitalized and in bold type: **SECTION HEADING**

Subsections should be bold: **Subsection heading**

Sub-subsections should be italicized: *Sub-subsection heading*

### **All submissions should:**

- Be clearly written and logically argued
- Describe an interesting, important, or unique contribution to the practice of professional gaming
- Be thorough in:
  - Use of data
  - Use of statistical and analytical methodologies
  - Reference to previous and related work
- We do not accept editorial pieces and personal opinions should not be present in submissions (i.e., assertions should be backed up by argument, analysis, or data). Editors will flag unsupported assertions prior to submission to reviewers and ask the authors to correct them.
- Use the *Chicago Manual of Style* as a baseline for usage, grammar, and formatting.

### **Game Reports:**

Game Reports summarize one particular game or series of the same game. They should include sufficient materials and descriptions so that someone reading the report could envision how the game was played and what the outcomes were. Illustrations and graphics are encouraged. Game reports should not simply dump the rules, maps, pieces, and charts for a game without any narrative or explanation. They should describe the unique or important aspects of a game and relate those aspects to larger issues in game design, execution, and analyses.

Game reports on commercial games will not be accepted, as that would simply be a review of the commercial game. We do not accept reviews at the present time; however, articles describing the use of commercial games in professional environments are encouraged.

### **Additional Guidelines:**

Papers that are accepted must be submitted in Microsoft Word and include camera-ready graphics copy in a separate file. All figures should be in both grayscale and color (i.e., ensure your graphics can



be read both in color and grayscale). Each illustration must be numbered and include an explanatory caption.

Any graphs or charts that include variables must have the variable identified on the graph and explained in the text, to include units if relevant.

Mathematical and symbolic expressions are welcome and should be in Microsoft Word format. Longer equations or large datasets should be placed into an appendix. All equations not derived by the author must be referenced.

Abbreviations and acronyms must be defined the first time they occur in the text. For texts with a large number of acronyms, we encourage authors to include an appendix of acronyms.

Footnotes are welcome, however excessively long footnotes should be incorporated into the body of the text or an appendix.

Acknowledgements and Disclaimers, if necessary, will appear as a footnote at the beginning of the paper. Those that reference authors should be attached to the author's name; those that reference the work should be attached to the first sentence of the paper.

Author statements (such as "The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author...") should appear as a footnote to the author's name.

References should be cited as (Author, Year). Reference should be collected alphabetically and by year at the end of the paper using *Chicago Manual of Style* format.

Appendices are great places to put longer footnotes, tables of data, longer equations, rules, or other materials that would disrupt the flow of the main text. Appendices should be numbered using Arabic numerals starting with one.

## **Review Process:**

The co-editors will review submissions to ensure they meet basic criteria for the journal.

The papers are then submitted for double-blind review.

Accepted papers will be returned to the authors with any editorial or reviewer suggestions and comments. Mandatory changes will be listed explicitly and must be made before final submission. Optional changes or suggestions are at the discretion of the author. Authors will then submit their final copy in Microsoft Word format.

Rejected papers will be returned to the author with the reviewer's and editors' comments. Papers may be re-submitted at the discretion of the editors if changes are made to reflect the reviewer's concerns. Re-submitted papers will go back through the review process as a new submission.

Authors are encouraged to discuss their papers and submissions with the editors prior to and after the review process in order to increase their acceptance rate.