External Reviewer Policy

The most important module within the review process are insightful reviews by the most relevant and therefore best possible reviewers. For this reason, PVLDB maintains a large review board of recognized scholars of the field with the goal to provide expertise for a wide range of topics in the scope of PVLDB.

PVLDB review board members in their role of reviewers are primarily responsible and accountable for the review for every assigned submission. Assigning external reviewers, i.e. forwarding a review assignment to individuals within and outside of the PVLDB review board without the permission of the corresponding AE is not allowed – for many reasons like missing/unclear expertise, potential violation of the COI rules etc.

If a situation arises that external support is needed for a review, the assigned reviewer may approach the corresponding AE in order to help finding an additional reviewer. The AE may obviously take recommendations from the assigned reviewers. It is up to the AE to decide if it is necessary to bring in additional external expertise, potentially approaching an additional reviewer and ask to support for a single review with respect to a very specific submission. The AE may also decide to approach the EiCs and propose to invite this additional reviewer as a regular member of the review board for the current Volume of PVLDB (with all rights and responsibilities).

A reviewer is allowed to share and discuss a submission with a trainee (e.g. PhD student, intern, PostDoc) for educational purposes only, e.g. train a PhD student to identify strong and weak points of a submission, identify the core contributions or assess the quality of the structure of a paper. The reviewer is (a) responsible to ensure that there is no COI according to the rules published at PVLDB.org between the trainee and any of the authors of the paper. The reviewer (b) has to inform the trainee about the confidentiality of the content of the paper. The reviewer (c) is still – as already stated above – solely responsible for the final review.

Summary: no forwarding of review assignments; AE is responsible to decide on additional reviewers if necessary (from within the board or from outside); discussing a submission with a trainee is allowed for educational purposes only, if the reviewer ensures the alignment with the COI rules and informs about the confidentiality of a PVLDB submission.