CCDCOE
NATO COOPERATIVE
CYBER DEFENCE
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

CYCON
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
CYBER CONFLICT

CyCon 2027 Conference Proceedings: Guidelines for Authors

1. About These Guidelines

These guidelines explain how to prepare and submit papers for the CyCon 2027 conference proceedings, published under IEEE. Please follow them closely. Papers that do not comply will be returned for correction or may be rejected outright.

2. Key Dates

Milestone	Deadline
Full anonymized paper submitted via EasyChair	6 January 2027
Notification of review outcome and reviewer comments	17 February 2027
Final (camera-ready) version and signed IEEE copyright form	3 March 2027

All deadlines are at 09:00 EET.

3. Submission and Review

A. Eligibility

- Papers must be original and must not have been published elsewhere or be under review elsewhere. Submissions may be checked with plagiarism-detection software.
- At least one author of each accepted paper must register for CyCon 2027 and present the paper at the conference. Accepted papers that are not presented may be excluded from the proceedings.

B. How to Submit

- Submit via EasyChair www.easychair.org
- Use the CyCon 2027 article template only.
- Allowed uploading format is Word format (.doc/.docx). The template sets the page size, margins and styles; do not change them.
- Access your abstract submission in EasyChair and Use the *Add File* option on your submission page. If you are unsure on how to edit your submission, please refer to the EasyChair manual available by using the link above.

C. Double-Blind Review and Anonymization

All papers undergo double-blind peer review: reviewers do not know who the authors are, and authors do not know who the reviewers are. The version submitted for review must not identify any author, directly or indirectly. **Papers that reveal the identity of an author will be rejected without review.**

Before submitting, make sure that:

- the name and affiliation fields in the template are left blank, and no names, affiliations, contact details or biographies appear elsewhere in the paper (author details are entered in EasyChair only);
- acknowledgements, funder names, grant numbers, disclaimers and clearance statements are removed (they are added to the final version; see Section 9);
- self-citations are written in the third person ('Tamm argues', not 'as I have argued elsewhere') or replaced with '[Anonymized for review]';
- there are no links to personal, institutional or project pages or repositories that would identify you as the author;
- the file name and document properties contain no names or organizations, and all comments and tracked changes are removed.

If you are unsure whether something could identify you, contact the editors before submitting.

D. Revision and Final Approval

Authors of accepted papers receive the reviewers' comments and must address them in the final version by given deadline.. Before publication, authors receive proofs for final approval. At proof stage, only corrections of errors are possible; substantive changes are no longer accepted.

4. Responsible Publication

A. Use of Generative AI

In line with IEEE policy, if you used generative AI to create any content in your paper (text, figures, images or code), disclose this in a section headed 'Acknowledgements' at the end of the paper, before the reference list. Name the AI system, identify the sections concerned and briefly describe how it was used.

Using AI only to edit or correct grammar does not need to be disclosed, although disclosure is recommended. Authors remain fully responsible for all content, including AI-generated material. AI tools cannot be listed as authors.

B. Publicly Releasable Content

Papers must contain only publicly releasable information. Authors are responsible for obtaining any clearance their organization requires; please allow enough time for this before the submission deadline. Previously undisclosed vulnerabilities must be responsibly disclosed to the affected parties before submission.

C. Third-Party Material

If you reproduce figures, images, screenshots or other material from other sources, you must have permission to do so and must credit the source.

D. Conflicts of Interest

Declare any financial or other interests that could be seen to influence your work. In the final version, include this declaration in the title-page footnote (Section 9C).

E. Copyright

Authors of accepted papers must sign the IEEE copyright form when submitting the final version.

5. Length and Layout

A. Length

Papers must be **between 4,000 and 6,000 words**, including the abstract, footnotes, captions and references. Longer papers require prior consent from CCDCOE.

B. Title Page

The first page contains only the title, the author fields (left blank for review), the abstract (up to 300 words) and up to six keywords, placed as shown in the template. The main text starts on the following page.

C. Formatting

- Times New Roman, 11 pt, regular, single-spaced, single column.
- Use italics for emphasis, for example when introducing key terms. Do not underline. Avoid bold unless absolutely necessary.
- Leave headers and footers empty, including page numbers; these are added during editing.

D. Headings

Use up to three heading levels, applying the heading styles in the template. Write all headings in title case:

Capitalize	Do not capitalize (unless it is the first word)
• the first word • nouns, verbs, adverbs (incl. then, when), adjectives (incl. this, that) and pronouns (incl. its) • prepositions that are part of a verb phrase • all parts of a compound word if one part is a noun or the parts have equal weight	• articles (a, an, the) • coordinating conjunctions (and, but, for, nor, or) • prepositions of four letters or fewer, and versus • to in infinitives

6. Language and Style

A. Spelling

- Papers must be in English. Use either US or British spelling consistently throughout. For British English, Oxford spelling (-ize) is preferred.
- Names of institutions in English-speaking countries keep their original spelling, whichever standard you use.

B. Abbreviations

- Explain all abbreviations, acronyms and uncommon technical terms at first use.
- Countries: US or U.S., UK or U.K., used consistently.
- International organizations: capitals, no full stops or spaces, even if pronounced as a word (EU, NATO, UN, OSCE, UNESCO).
- Diseases: capitals, no full stops or spaces (COVID-19, SARS).
- Threat actors: no space between APT and the number (APT29).

C. Military ranks

- Ranks should never be abbreviated and should be capitalised when referring to a specific individual.
- In general, ranks in the armed forces of the main English-speaking countries such as the United States, Britain and Australia are not hyphenated, e.g. Lieutenant Colonel, Rear Admiral, Air Chief Marshal. However, there are exceptions, such as Canada and India, which hyphenate their titles and we should follow the local practice.
- At second and subsequent reference, use the surname OR his or her rank, e.g. Major General John Brown becomes either Brown or the general (not the major general).
- Ranks in the non-English-speaking world should be translated without hyphens.
- For additional guidance refer to the BBC News style guide on Military.

D. Cyber Terms

- Use 'cyber' either as a separate word (cyber security) or as a prefix (cybersecurity), consistently throughout.
- Do not hyphenate (not cyber-security or cyber-attack).
- Always write 'cyberspace' as one word.
- Do not use 'cyber' as a noun.

E. Capitalization

Capitalize only proper names and titles (for headings, see Section 5D). Legal-track papers may capitalize 'State', consistently.

F. Punctuation and Quotations

- The serial (Oxford) comma is optional but must be used consistently.

- Use the quotation marks of your chosen spelling standard, including when highlighting individual words or phrases:

	British English	US English
Quotation	single: '…'	double: "…"
Quotation within a quotation	double: "…"	single: '…'
Punctuation	outside the quotation marks	inside the quotation marks

- Quotations of three or more lines: set as a separate paragraph, usually introduced by a colon, indented on both sides, justified and without quotation marks.

G. Cross-References

Refer to sections, tables and figures by number (Section 3, Table II, Figure 1). Do not refer to page numbers or use 'above' or 'below'.

7. Citations, Footnotes and References

A. General Rules

- Use the citation style for your track (Section 7B) and apply it consistently.
- All tracks use footnotes placed at the bottom of the page on which they are cited, plus a separate reference list at the end of the paper. Do not use endnotes.
- Inside tables and figures, including their captions, mark footnotes with letters (a, b, c).
- For online sources, also provide a link to an archived version where possible.
- Exceptions to these rules can be agreed individually with the editors.

B. Citation Style by Track

Track	Style	Resources
Legal	**OSCOLA, 5th edition (2026)**. Preferred with British spelling. The 5th edition includes a chapter on international law and no longer uses ibid. **or The Bluebook, 22nd edition**. Preferred with US spelling.	OSCOLA: law.ox.ac.uk/oscola Supplementary (earlier editions; where they differ, the 5th edition prevails). Bluebook: Quick Style Guide
Strategy/ Policy	**The Chicago Manual of Style, 18th edition (2024)**. Use either the Notes and Bibliography system or the Author-Date system.	Citation Quick Guide Notes and Bibliography Author-Date
Technology	IEEE style	IEEE Reference Guide IEEE Editorial Style Manual

8. Tables, Figures and Equations

A. General Rules

- Use tables and figures where they support or clarify your argument.
- Place captions above the table or figure, in capitals, without a full stop:
  TABLE I: TABLE HEAD (Roman numerals)
  FIGURE 1: FIGURE CAPTION (Arabic numerals)
- Number tables and figures consecutively throughout the paper and refer to each at least once in the text.
- Keep each caption on the same page as its table or figure.
- Centre all tables and figures on the page.

B. Tables

- Create tables with Word's table function. Do not use linked or embedded objects, or tabs and spaces to imitate a table.
- If a table from other software cannot be converted, insert it as a high-resolution image. It is still captioned and numbered as a table.

C. Figures

- Minimum resolution 300 dpi; SVG preferred. Avoid GIF and JPG. Consult the editors before using another format.
- Images copied from the internet are often too low in resolution for print. For screenshots, use a dedicated tool and a high screen resolution.

D. Equations

- Align equations on the left.
- If numbered, number them consecutively throughout the paper, in parentheses at the right margin, level with the last line of the equation.
- In the text, refer to them as 'equation (1)'.

9. Final (Camera-Ready) Version

After acceptance, revise your paper in response to the reviewers' comments and submit the final version via EasyChair by the deadline in Section 2. At this stage, complete the following steps.

A. Authors and Affiliations

- Complete the name and affiliation fields in the template.
- List authors in descending order of contribution, starting with the lead author.
- Write first names in full. Abbreviate middle names, followed by a full stop.

- For each author, give the organization they belong to at the time of submission (e.g. university, company, government body), the town and the country. Position, organizational unit and email address are optional.
- Mark the corresponding author and give their email address.

B. Acknowledgements

Optionally, add thanks to colleagues or details of authors' contributions to the 'Acknowledgements' section at the end of the paper, before the reference list. Any AI-use statement stays in this section.

C. Title-Page Footnote

Optionally, place any disclaimers, clearance statements, funding and grant details, and conflict-of-interest declarations in a single unnumbered footnote on the title page, marked with a symbol (e.g. *).

D. Other Steps

- Restore any self-citations replaced with '[Anonymized for review]'.
- Upload high-resolution versions of all figures, and of any tables supplied as images (Section 8C).
- Sign the IEEE copyright form (Section 4E).

10. Submission Checklists

Version for review	Final version
☐ Article template used; file is .docx and named correctly ☐ Fully anonymized (Section 3C) ☐ 4,000–6,000 words, including abstract, footnotes, captions and references ☐ Abstract of up to 300 words and up to six keywords ☐ Track selected in EasyChair and stated in the paper ☐ Any use of generative AI disclosed ☐ Only publicly releasable content ☐ Citations follow your track style consistently ☐ Headers and footers empty	☐ Reviewer comments addressed ☐ Authors, affiliationsand corresponding author added ☐ Self-citations restored ☐ Acknowledgements and title-page footnote added (if applicable) ☐ High-resolution figures uploaded ☐ IEEE copyright form signed ☐ Submitted via EasyChair by the deadline

11. Contact

For any questions, contact the editorial team at cycon2027@ccdcoe.org.