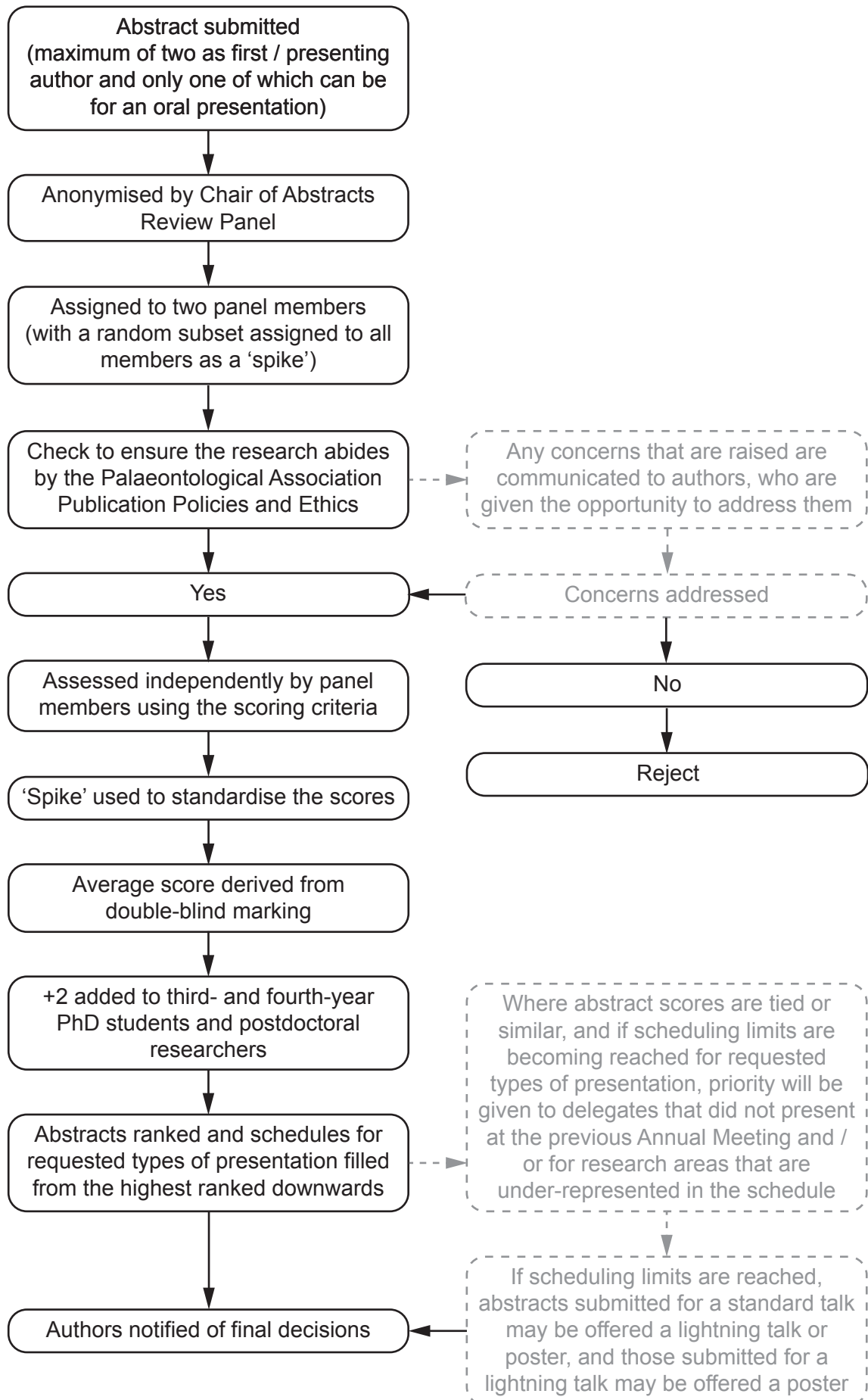


Flowchart of the abstract review and decision process:



Guidelines for reviewing abstracts:

Each abstract will be scored between 0 and 4 on the following four criteria:

- **Aims and conclusions:** Is there a clear aim (or hypothesis) to the work? Is it clearly explained how this was addressed by the work presented and how the results fit the conclusion?
- **Data, analysis, and novelty:** Does it show evidence of data having been collected and analysed? Are concrete or specific findings presented? Does it include something new or interesting either in terms of the approaches, or the data, or the findings?
- **Context and breadth of interest:** Is it placed within a background context that provides motivation for the work? Will it appeal to the broad membership of the Palaeontological Association?
- **Clarity:** Is there a logical flow to the abstract? Is it well written, not overly technical or confusing? Are things, including technical terminology, adequately explained and appropriate?

Rubric for scoring abstracts:

Criterion	4 (Excellent)	3 (Good)	2 (Reasonable)	1 (Poor)	0 (Absent)
Aims and conclusions	There are precisely stated aims (or hypotheses); and there is an excellent link between the results and conclusions.	There are broadly stated aims (or hypotheses); and there is a good link between the results and conclusions.	There are broadly stated aims (or hypotheses); and there is a reasonable link between the results and conclusions.	There is no real statement of aims (or hypotheses); and there is a poor link between the results and conclusions.	There is no real statement of aims (or hypotheses); and there are no real conclusions drawn from the results.
Data, analysis, and novelty	There is clear evidence of extensive data collection and analysis; and it includes something highly novel or interesting in terms of the approaches, data, or findings.	There is evidence of extensive data collection and analysis; but it is incremental in terms of the approaches, data, or findings. OR There is evidence of limited / preliminary data collection and analysis; but it includes something new or interesting in terms of the approaches, data, or findings.	There is evidence of extensive data collection and analysis; but there are no real advances in terms of the approaches, data, or findings. OR There is evidence of limited / preliminary data collection and analysis; but it is incremental in terms of the approaches, data, or findings.	There is evidence of limited / preliminary data collection and analysis; and there are no real advances in terms of the approaches, data, or findings.	There is a lack of data collection and analysis; and there is little contribution to our knowledge.
Context and breadth of interest	There is an excellent explanation of the background context and motivation for the work; and the subject will have extensive appeal.	There is a good explanation of the background context and motivation for the work; and the subject will have broad appeal.	There is a reasonable explanation of the background context and motivation for the work; and the subject will have reasonable appeal.	There is a poor explanation of the background context and motivation for the work; and the subject will have limited appeal.	There is little to no explanation of the background context and motivation; and it will have limited appeal.
Clarity	There is a logical flow, it is well-written, not overly technical, and all terminology is explained.	There is a logical flow and it is well-written; but there are some technical parts that are not fully explained.	There is a logical flow; but the writing could be improved, and there are some parts that are not fully explained.	The structure and writing could both be improved, and there are multiple parts that are not fully explained.	It lacks logical flow, is poorly written, and there is little explanation.