



Match Policy: What Institutional Officials Need to Know

Before participating in an NRMP Match, each NRMP institutional official must agree to the terms and conditions of the [Match Participation Agreement \(MPA\) for Institutions](#). Every institutional official should read the MPA thoroughly because **the entire Agreement is binding**; however, this document highlights sections of the Agreement that may require an NRMP institutional official's specific attention.

- ✓ **NEW** Institutional officials must attest that they have read, understand, and agree to the terms of the Match Participation Agreement, including an understanding that a Match made between a program and an applicant creates a binding commitment for the program to offer a training position to the applicant and for the applicant to accept such position absent a waiver from the NRMP. (Section 1.0)
- ✓ Any programs that participates in the **Main Residency Match** must register and attempt to fill all positions in the Match. (Section 2.2.3)
- ✓ Sponsored applicants in the **Main Residency Match** include U.S. MD and DO senior students (Section 2.2.6)
- ✓ All programs sponsored by an institution, regardless of the program's Match participation status, must offer positions to sponsored applicants only through the **Main Residency Match** or another national matching plan. (Section 2.2.6)
- ✓ All programs sponsored by an institution, regardless of the program's Match participation status, are prohibited from offering a position or new training year, regardless of start date, to an applicant who is ineligible because of a denied waiver, a confirmed violation, or a concurrent year match or **SOAP** commitment. (Sections 2.2.7, 4.5.1.5, and 7.2)
- ✓ Between the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and the release of Match results, none of the programs sponsored by an institution, regardless of the program's Match participation status, may discuss, interview for, or offer a position to an applicant outside the matching and/or **SOAP**® process. (Sections 2.2.8, and 4.5.1.4)
- ✓ NRMP institutional officials are required to assume oversight in the **Registration, Ranking, and Results (R3)** system of unaccredited fellowship programs not under the governance of the institution. Unaccredited programs for which the NRMP IO does not assume oversight will not be permitted to participate in the Match. (Section 2.2.11)
- ✓ **NEW** The institutional official has the authority to modify and certify program rank order lists; however, any changes made by the institutional official to a program's rank order list must be done in collaboration with and with the approval of the program director. (Section 2.2.12)
- ✓ NRMP institutional officials are required to assume responsibility for communicating NRMP polices to the institution's programs, faculty, and staff, regardless of their Match participation status. (section 2.2.17)
- ✓ **UPDATED** The NRMP's decision to grant or deny the waiver is at the sole discretion of the NRMP, is final, and is not subject to challenge in arbitration, by judicial review, or by review of any kind by any third party. (Section 4.7)
- ✓ If a Match participant unsubscribes from NRMP emails or notices, the NRMP shall have no responsibility for sending NRMP information or providing for its receipt. (Section 6.1)

- ✓ **UPDATED** Program directors must provide, in writing prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline, complete, timely, and accurate information to applicants, including a copy of the contract the applicant would be expected to sign and institutional policies regarding eligibility for appointment including visa or employment requirements, although program information, contract element, and eligibility requirements may be subject to change as determined by the program. (Section 6.9)
- ✓ **UPDATED** The information submitted to the NRMP on both applicant and program rank order lists is confidential. It is the policy of the NRMP not to disclose such information in any manner that permits individual identification of either applicants or programs. The NRMP may, however, anonymize rank order list information and use or contribute such anonymized information for research purposes. (Section 6.10)
- ✓ Applicants and programs have the right to keep their rank order lists and **SOAP** preferences/preference lists confidential and not to share them with any other individual or entity. (Section 6.10)
- ✓ Programs are prohibited from asking applicants about ranking or **SOAP** preferences or requesting the names, specialties, geographic locations, or other identifying information about the programs to which they have or may apply. (Section 8.0)
- ✓ **NEW** Program staff are prohibited from requesting applicants reveal any information pertaining to interviews, including the number of applications sent, and/or the number of interviews offered, accepted or attended. (Section 8.2.b)
- ✓ **UPDATED SOAP** concludes at 3:00 p.m. eastern time on Thursday of Match Week. Until such time, **SOAP**-participating programs can fill unfilled positions only through **SOAP**. Neither filled nor unfilled program shall create positions for partially matched applications until **SOAP** concludes. (Section 9.2)
- ✓ The institution's programs must use **SOAP** during Match Week if they wish to fill positions that are unfilled after the matching algorithm has been processed. (Section 9.0)
- ✓ All institution and program Match fees must be paid within thirty (30) days of the invoice date. Institutions with unpaid fees at sixty (60) days from the invoice date will be assessed a 10 percent late fee. Failure to remit payment to the NRMP after ninety (90) days from the invoice date will result in the institution being barred from registering **ANY** of its programs for the *Main Residency Match* and any Fellowship Matches until the outstanding balance has been remitted to the NRMP. (Section 12.1)

All In Policy for Fellowship Matches

- ✓ *Specialties Matching Service Match* sponsors may voluntarily implement a policy whereby all Match-participating programs are required to register and attempt to fill all positions in the Match. (Section 1.0)

Failure to comply with all terms of this Agreement, whether intentionally or not, may result in an investigation and the imposition of sanctions, including but not limited to notifying the ACGME Institutional Review Committee.