



Match Policy: What School Officials Need to Know

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

- ✓ **NEW** School representatives/participants 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)
- ✓ Schools must immediately revoke the school's sponsorship and withdraw any sponsored applicant who is determined to be ineligible to enter graduate medical education on July 1 in the year of the Match. Withdrawal must occur prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. Schools also must notify the NRMP in writing if it is determined after the Match results have been released that a sponsored applicant is ineligible to enter graduate medical education on July 1 in the year of the Match. (Section 2.2.5)
- ✓ The medical school shall withdraw sponsored applicants from the **Main Residency Match** who received positions in U.S. Military graduate medical education programs prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. Such applicants will be ineligible to participate in **SOAP** for concurrent year positions. (Section 2.2.6)
- ✓ If after the matching algorithm has been processed the NRMP receives information that an applicant is ineligible to enter graduate medical education training on July 1 in the year of the Match, the NRMP shall grant an immediate waiver to the applicant and to the program where the applicant matched. (Section 5.0)
- ✓ **UPDATED** The term "sponsored applicant" means an applicant who is
 - a student enrolled in a medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education ("LCME") **OR** a student enrolled in a medical school accredited by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) at the time of registration for the Match; or
 - a graduate from an LCME or AOA COCA-accredited medical school during the period beginning June 30 of the year registration for the Match opens and ending at 9:00 pm eastern time on the Rank Order List Certification Deadline in the year of the Match.

A sponsored applicant's eligibility to participate in the **Main Residency Match** and to enter graduate medical education on July 1 in the year of the Match shall be based on the graduation requirements of the applicant's medical school and shall be verified by the applicant's medical school no later than the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. (Section 5.1)

- ✓ If the participant unsubscribes from NRMP emails or notices, the NRMP shall have no responsibility for sending NRMP information or providing for its receipt. (Section 6.2)
- ✓ Between the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and 3:00 p.m. eastern time on Monday of Match Week, schools shall not contact programs on applicants' behalf regarding any position offered in or that would run concurrent with positions offered in the **Main Residency Match**. Beginning at 3:00 p.m. eastern time on Monday of Match Week, communication between and among unmatched applicants, programs with unfilled positions, and schools shall be governed by Section 7.0 of the Agreement. (Section 6.5)
- ✓ Schools are prohibited from sharing the List of Unfilled Programs with any individual who is not registered for the **Main Residency Match**, allowing an individual who is not registered for the Match to use the

registrant's username and password to access the **R3** system to obtain information about unfilled positions, or assisting any applicant who has matched to a position or accepted a position through **SOAP** to obtain a concurrent year residency position unless that applicant has been granted a waiver by the NRMP. (Section 6.7)

- ✓ All information that a medical school reports about its students and graduates during the application, interview, and/or matching processes, shall be complete, timely and accurate. Information reported in the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE), that is false, misleading, incomplete, or not up-to-date is a violation of the Agreement. For example, the omission of information which would reasonably be considered pertinent to a program's decision to rank an applicant, to determine an applicant's ability to satisfy program requirements or standards, or to identify circumstances that may affect adversely the applicant's licensure status, visa status, or ability to start the training program shall be considered a violation of the Agreement. A medical school shall amend or attach an addendum to a student or graduate MSPE if the school has actual knowledge the MSPE, as written, no longer is accurate. (Section 6.8)
- ✓ Applicants have the right to keep their rank order lists confidential and not to share them with any other individual or entity, unless they choose otherwise. During the interview and matching processes, a medical school cannot require an applicant to reveal their rank order list preferences. It is not a violation of this Agreement if: 1) students choose voluntarily to share their rank order list with their medical school advisors, or 2) schools offer to review rank order lists to support students in the match process. (Section 6.9.1)
- ✓ Information from the *Unmatched Applicants Report* that is released at 10:30 a.m. eastern time on Monday of Match Week is confidential and cannot be shared prior to 11:00 a.m. eastern time on Monday of Match Week. (Section 6.9.2)
- ✓ Match Week is governed by the **Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP)**. Neither medical school staff nor any other individual or entity shall contact residency programs on behalf of **SOAP**-eligible or **SOAP**-ineligible applicants prior to contact from directors of unfilled programs. (Section 7.0)
- ✓ Until **SOAP** concludes on Thursday of Match Week, **SOAP**-eligible candidates can apply **only** to unfilled Match-participating programs that are participating in **SOAP** and **only** through ERAS. **SOAP**-ineligible applicants cannot contact or apply to **any** Match-participating program, regardless of the program's **SOAP** participation status, until SOAP concludes on Thursday of Match Week. (Section 7.1)
- ✓ Medical schools and their sponsored graduate medical education programs, regardless of the programs' Match participation status, are prohibited from offering a position or a new training year, regardless of the start date, to any applicant who has been barred for one year from accepting or starting a position or a new training year because of a concurrent year Match commitment, because a waiver request has been denied by the NRMP, or because of a confirmed violation of the applicable Match Participation Agreement. (Section 8.2.1)

Failure to comply with all terms of the Match Participation Agreement, whether intentionally or not, may result in an investigation and the imposition of sanctions, including but not limited to notifying the Higher Learning Commission and appropriate regional accrediting body.