



## Match Policy: What Fellowship Applicants Need to Know

Before participating in the **Specialties Matching Service®**, each applicant must agree to the terms and conditions of the [Specialties Matching Service Participation Agreement \(MPA\)](#). Every applicant should read the MPA thoroughly because **the entire Agreement is binding**; however, this document is intended to promote compliance with policy by highlighting sections of the Agreement that are new and/or especially relevant to applicants.

- ✓ **NEW** Applicants 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)
- ✓ **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 2.4)
- ✓ **NEW** If a waiver request is denied and an applicant declines to accept the matched position, the applicant may instead agree to the following remedy in lieu of an investigation and the potential imposition of sanctions: i) to be barred from accepting or starting a position, regardless of the start date, in any residency training program sponsored by a Match-participating institution that would commence training within one year from the date of the NRMP's final decision to deny the waiver; ii) to be barred from the Match for one year; and iii) agree to be flagged in the R3 system for one year, all effective immediately upon acceptance of such agreement by the NRMP. (Section 2.4.4)
- ✓ 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 4.1)
- ✓ Between the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and Match Day, applicants and programs cannot apply for, discuss, interview for, or accept or offer any position that would run concurrent with positions offered in the Specialties Matching Service. (Section 4.2)
- ✓ **UPDATED** Applicants are at all times responsible for the completeness, timeliness, and accuracy of the information they provide to their medical schools and programs. Sponsored applicants who obtain positions in U.S. military graduate medical education programs are obligated to notify their medical schools prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. The submission of information by an applicant to a program at any time during the matching process that is incomplete, misleading, false, or plagiarized from another source is a violation of this Agreement. For purposes of the Match Participation Agreement, the term "matching process" includes all aspects of the matching process, from the submission of information or an application through the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) or other application process, interviews with program representatives (regardless of when an applicant registered for the Match), as well as information submitted in the course of waiver requests, violation investigations, and arbitration proceedings. The omission of information that would reasonably be considered pertinent to a program's decision whether to rank an applicant, to determine an applicant's ability to satisfy program requirements or standards, or to identify circumstances that may reasonably be expected to delay or affect adversely the applicant's medical school graduation or current training date, licensure status, visa status, or ability to start the training program, shall be considered a violation of this Agreement. (Section 4.6)
- ✓ **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 4.7)
- ✓ An applicant who gives notice of resignation, resigns, or vacates a matched position within 45 days of the start date specified in the appointment contract shall be presumed to have breached this Agreement unless evidence is submitted, through the NRMP waiver process, sufficient to show that the applicant entered into the program in good faith and the NRMP determines that applicant has a reasonable basis to be released from the binding commitment to the program. (Section 5.1)

- ✓ After the Rank Order List Certification Deadline, the NRMP will certify an applicant or program rank order list on behalf of the applicant or program only upon the written request and consent of the applicant or program. Such written request and consent must be received by NRMP within 48 hours of the applicable Rank Order List Certification Deadline. Only the rank order list displayed in the **R3** system at the time of the deadline will be certified through this courtesy certification process. The NRMP will not create or modify a rank order list at any time for any reason. (Section 5.3)
- ✓ **UPDATED** Applicants shall at all times be free to keep confidential all information pertaining to interviews, their ranking preferences, and the names or identities, specialties, geographic locations, or other identifying information about programs to which they have or may apply. (Section 6.2.b)
- ✓ An applicant who is the subject of an alleged violation will be presumed to have engaged in a wrongful act if there is no response to an inquiry from the NRMP after three attempts at contact have been made. (Violations Policy, Section C)

**Failure to comply with all the terms and conditions of the Match Participation Agreement, whether intentionally or not, may result in an investigation and the imposition of penalties** including but not limited to being barred from accepting or starting a position in any program sponsored by a Match-participating institution, being barred from participating in future NRMP Matches, and being identified as a Match violator in the *Registration, Ranking, and Results*<sup>®</sup> (*R3*<sup>®</sup>) system.