NRMP Statement on Professionalism

This message highlights the importance the NRMP places on the professional behavior of all Match participants. Strict adherence to the terms and conditions of the Match Participation Agreement is essential in order to avoid Match violations.

The NRMP maintains the highest professional standards in the conduct of its Matches and in its interactions with all participants and expects all Match participants to conduct their affairs in an ethical and professionally responsible manner. During the registration process, you electronically affixed your password to the Match Participation Agreement (“Match Agreement”). In doing so, you agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of the Match Agreement, which details participant rights and responsibilities and which is binding on you and all other Match participants. You may read the Match Participation Agreement at any time.

How Do I Avoid Engaging In A Match Violation?

Participants can avoid engaging in a Match violation by observing practices that respect the right of programs and applicants to determine their selections in the absence of unwarranted pressure. Participants also can avoid a Match violation by respecting the binding nature of a match commitment. The Policies and Procedures for Waiver Requests and the Policies and Procedures for Reporting, Investigation, and Disposition of Violations of NRMP Agreements are incorporated by reference into the Match Participation Agreement and are available for review.

The Applicant Match History, available throughout the year in the Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system, must be used by program directors and NRMP institutional officials to determine whether an applicant has a binding concurrent-year match commitment to another program, has requested a waiver of a match commitment, and/or has been involved in an NRMP violation investigation. An Institution and Program Violations Report also is available in the R3 system to allow applicants and medical school officials to determine whether an institution or program has been involved in an NRMP violation investigation.

Most Commonly Reported Violations

The violations most commonly reported to the NRMP include:

1. After a Match, an applicant who obtained a position does not accept that position. The Match Participation Agreement states that the listing of a program on the applicant's certified rank order list and the listing of an applicant on a program’s rank order list establishes a binding commitment to accept/offer an appointment if a match results and to start training in good faith on the date specified in the appointment contract. The same binding commitment is established when positions are obtained through the Match Week Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®).
2. A program director requires verbal or written confirmation from an applicant about where the applicant has applied or interviewed and/or the applicant's ranking preferences. Although applicants and program directors may volunteer how one intends to rank the other, it is a violation of the Match Participation Agreement for either party to request ranking information or for a program director to require applicants to identify programs to which applicants have or may apply.

3. An applicant with a binding commitment applies for, discusses, interviews for, or accepts a concurrent-year position in another program prior to receiving a waiver from the NRMP. Similarly, a program director discusses, interviews for, or offers a position to an applicant prior to receiving a waiver from the NRMP. The Match Participation Agreement prohibits applicants and programs from releasing each other from a match commitment. Once parties have matched or a position has been accepted during SOAP, a waiver of the binding commitment may be obtained only from the NRMP.

5. During the application, interview, and/or matching process, an applicant fails to provide complete, timely, and accurate information to programs. Similarly, a program fails to provide complete, timely, and accurate information to applicants. Prior to the Rank Order List Deadline, programs must provide interviewees with a copy of the contract they will be expected to sign if matched to the program and pertinent information about institutional policies and eligibility requirements for appointment.

6. During SOAP, a medical school official contacts a program director at the same or another institution on behalf of one of the medical school’s unmatched applicants. The Match Participation Agreement prohibits applicants and any individual acting on the applicants’ behalf from contacting programs about unfilled positions prior to the program contacting the applicant after receiving an ERAS application.

Misleading Communications

The Match Participation Agreement permits program directors and applicants to express interest in each other but prohibits the solicitation of statements implying a commitment. However, some applicants may misinterpret statements of encouragement to signify a commitment on the part of the program, and some programs may make misleading statements.

Such statements are not binding, and neither applicants nor program directors should rely on them when creating their rank order lists. Program directors, institutional officials, and medical school officials should avoid making misleading statements and at all times display a professional code of behavior in their interactions with applicants. The NRMP recommends that each program director and applicant read carefully the Match Communication Code of Conduct and Applicant Match Tips for information on acceptable methods of interaction during the interview and matching processes.

NOTE: The foregoing examples are illustrative only. They are not meant to be an exhaustive list of the types of activities that violate the NRMP's Match Participation Agreement.

Additional information about the NRMP can be found online. "Like" us on Facebook and "Follow" us on Twitter to obtain important information throughout the residency and fellowship selection process.