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 institutional official’s specific attention.

✓ Programs that participate in the Main Residency Match must register and attempt to fill all positions in the Match. (Section 2.2.3)

✓ All programs sponsored by an institution, regardless of the program’s Match participation status, must offer positions to U.S. allopathic senior students only through the Main Residency Match or another national matching plan. (Section 2.2.6)

✓ 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. Programs also 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, 2.2.8, 4.5, and 7.2)

✓ 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)

✓ 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.