



## Match Policy: What Applicants Need to Know

Before participating in the Main Residency Match<sup>®</sup>, each applicant must agree to the terms and conditions of the Match Participation Agreement for Applicants. **The Match Agreement is binding; accordingly, each applicant is responsible for reading the entire Agreement.** To promote compliance with the terms outlined in the Agreement, this document highlights certain sections that may require an applicant's specific attention.

- Before the Rank Order List Certification Deadline, the NRMP will verify that international medical graduates (IMG) have completed the necessary examination and skills requirements for ECFMG certification. The ECFMG prescribes requirements for IMG entry into graduate medical education. (Sections 2.0 and 3.0)
- **UPDATED** If two applicants participate in the Match as a couple and
  - one member of the couple is withdrawn from, or is determined to be ineligible to participate in, the Match, and the individuals have not “uncoupled” in the Registration, Ranking, and Results (R3) system by the Rank Order List Certification Deadline
  - OR
  - one member of the couple has not certified their rank order list by the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and has not responded to the 24-hour window to submit a written request to the NRMP to certify their list, the NRMP will
    - notify both individuals of the status of the couple;
    - uncouple the individuals; and
    - re-certify and process the list of the eligible or certified individual.

If the eligible or certified individual wishes to be withdrawn from the Match, they must notify the NRMP in writing within 24 hours of being notified of the removal of couple status (Section 3.3)

- The NRMP is not an employment service and does not oversee the terms of any contract between applicants and training programs. In addition, training programs have sole responsibility for establishing and communicating all program and institutional eligibility requirements for any residency position. (Section 4.0)
- All applicants who participate in the Match are expected to
  - Act in an ethical and professional manner from the time of application through the 45<sup>th</sup> day following the start date of training, if matched, or through the conclusion of any NRMP-related waiver review, violation investigation, or appeal process.
  - Provide complete, timely, and accurate information both verbally and in writing throughout the application, interview, matching processes to programs, and, where applicable, medical schools and the NRMP, including but not limited to information that would be pertinent to a program's decision to rank an applicant or onboard the applicant for training. (Section 6.0)
- Applicants have the right to keep confidential all information pertaining to the programs to which they have or may apply, preference signals if applying to specialties that have implemented preference signaling, and ranking or SOAP preferences. (Section 6.0)

- Applicants who are fully or partially matched are in a binding commitment and must accept the appointment(s) offered by training programs, meet all eligibility requirements for training, and begin training on the date specified in the appointment contract with good-faith intent to complete the program. (Section 7.3)
- With respect to communication about appointments
  - Between the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and the notification of match status, applicants may not apply for, discuss, interview for, or accept any position that would run concurrent with positions offered in the Main Residency Match.
  - Between notification of match status and the conclusion of Match Week, fully matched applicants and programs may not contact each other until the general announcement of Match results. Partially matched applicants and couples may contact their medical schools to obtain the city, state, and zip of the matched program to facilitate participation in SOAP. (Section 7.4)
- During SOAP
  - 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.
- **NEW** SOAP-eligible applicants who wish to refrain from participating in SOAP to pursue interests other than clinical training may do so in lieu of participating in SOAP provided the position
  - is not affiliated with a Match- or SOAP-participating program;
  - does not qualify for training credit in an ACGME-accredited program; and
  - the applicant does not submit any applications to SOAP-participating programs during Match Week. (Section 9.0)
- Neither applicants nor programs may release each other from a matched position. Applicants who cannot or will not honor their binding commitment must request a waiver or a one-year deferral from the NRMP, which has sole discretion to grant or deny a requested waiver or deferral. (Section 10.0)
- **UPDATED** With respect to the use of Match information
  - Applicants: Applicants must refrain from sharing any information from or maintained in the **R3** system. Applicants are also prohibited from copying, distributing, or posting or in any way making publicly available, any Match Week information to any website or non-NRMP-related matching service, including sharing URLs that link to information from the **R3** system or PDFs, even if the information already is in the public domain.
  - NRMP: Applicants authorize the NRMP to request, obtain, transmit or receive identifying information from their medical schools, the National Board of Medical Examiners, and/or the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, and others for reasons including but not limited to verifying data submitted by the applicant, conducting a Match, or performing research.
    - NRMP is authorized to share identifiable information only with reputable organizations under strict, binding terms of a confidential data sharing agreement.
    - NRMP is not authorized to release clearly and uniquely identifiable information in publications, presentations, and reports. (Section 12.0)

**Failure to comply with all the terms and conditions of the Agreement, whether intentionally or not, may result in an investigation and the imposition of penalties.** (Section 12.0)