



## Match Policy: What Program Directors Need to Know

Before participating in the Main Residency Match<sup>®</sup>, each program director must agree to the terms and conditions of the Match Participation Agreement for Programs. **The Match Agreement is binding; accordingly, each program director 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 a program director's specific attention.

- Program directors participating in the Match must register and attempt to fill all of their positions in the Match or another national matching plan. Program directors also must select U.S. senior students ("sponsored applicants") only through the Match or another national matching plan. (Section 3.2)
- Program directors may designate a program coordinator to assist with the matching process. Program coordinators can enter rank order lists and SOAP preferences lists, but they cannot certify those lists. Program coordinators must create a unique username and password for the R3 system; program directors are prohibited from sharing login information (Section 3.2)
- 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 eligible requirements for any residency position. (Section 4.0)
- All programs 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 or through the conclusion of any NRMP-related waiver review, violation investigation, or appeal process;
  - provide to applicants and medical schools by the Rank Order List Certification Deadline complete, timely, and accurate information that would be pertinent to an applicant's decision to rank a program. Information includes but is not limited to a copy of the contract the applicant would sign and institutional policies regarding eligibility for appointment, including visa requirements, drug screening protocols, and background checks;
  - refrain from requesting that applicants reveal any information about the programs to which they have or may apply, interview intentions and practices, or ranking intentions. (Section 6.0)
- Programs have the right to make selections without undue or unwarranted pressure and keep confidential all information pertaining to preference signals and the applicants they have interviewed and ranked on a rank order list or SOAP preference list (Section 6.0)
- Submission of a certified rank order list by a program confirms the program's intention to adhere to the binding commitment to offer an appointment and begin training in good faith on the specified in the appointment contract. (Section 7.3)
- Between the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and the notification of match status, programs shall refrain from discussing, interviewing for, or offering any position that would run concurrent with positions offered in the Main Residency Match. In addition, fully matched applicants and programs may not contact each other until the general announcement of Match results. (Section 7.4)

- During SOAP
  - SOAP-participating programs can accept applications only from SOAP-eligible applicants and only through ERAS and may offer unfilled positions only through SOAP until SOAP concludes.
  - SOAP-participating programs can initiate contact with applicants only after receipt of the applicant's application. Applicants are prohibited from initiating contact with unfilled programs until programs contact them. (Section 8.0)
- **NEW** SOAP-eligible applicants may, in lieu of participating in SOAP, pursue interests other than clinical training provided the position is not affiliated with an ACGME-accredited program, does not qualify for training credit in an ACGME-affiliated program, and the applicant does not submit applications to SOAP-participating programs during Match Week. (Section 8.0)
- Neither programs nor applicants may release each other from a matched position. Programs 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
  - Programs: Programs must refrain from sharing any information from or maintained in the **R3** system. Programs 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.
  - The NRMP: Programs authorize the NRMP to request, obtain, transmit or receive identifying information for reasons including but not limited to verifying data submitted by the program, conducting a Match, or performing research. NRMP is authorized to share identifiable ranking and match outcome 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)