



Match Policy: What Medical Schools Need to Know

Before participating in the Main Residency Match®, each medical school official must agree to the terms and conditions of the Match Participation Agreement for Schools. **The Match Agreement is binding; accordingly, each school official 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 school official's specific attention.

- 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 2.0)
- The school official must ensure that all the school's applicants participating in the Match:
 - are eligible to participate in the Match;
 - are sponsored by the medical school, if a U.S. senior student;
 - have completed the registration process in the R3 system; and
 - have executed the Match Participation Agreement before the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. (Section 3.1)
- The SO may appoint a school administrator (SA) to assist with the matching process, including accessing the R3 system to enter or change medical school and applicant reference data. SA's can enter rank order lists, but they cannot certify them. SAs are prohibited from using the SO username and password to access the R3 system. (Section 3.2)
- **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 - one member of the couple is withdrawn from, or is determined to be ineligible to participate in, the Match, and the individuals have not "uncoupled" in the Registration, Ranking, and Results (R3)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If the eligible or certified individual wishes to be withdrawn from the Match, they must notify the NRMP in writing within 24 hours of being notified of the removal of couple status (Section 3.3)

- All medical schools who participate in the Match are expected to
 - Act in an ethical and professional manner from the time of application through the 45th day following the start date of training 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, the NRMP,

- including but not limited to information contained in the MSPE that would be pertinent to a program's decision to rank an applicant or onboard the applicant for training.
 - Refrain from requesting, requiring, or otherwise pressuring, persuading or coercing applicants to disclose their rank order lists or SOAP® preferences; and
 - Sharing information from the R3 system, including the *Unmatched Applicants Report*, until the time published on the NRMPs website (Section 5.0)
- Schools must immediately revoke the school's sponsorship and withdraw any U.S. MD or DO senior student who is determined to be ineligible to enter graduate medical education on July 1 in the year of the Match. Withdrawal must occur prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. Schools also must notify the NRMP in writing if it is determined after the Match results have been released that a sponsored applicant is ineligible to enter graduate medical education on July 1 in the year of the Match. (Sections 6.0 and 7.0)
- **NEW** Partially matched applicants and couples may contact their medical schools beginning that the designated time on Monday of Match week to obtain the city, state, and zip code of the matched program to facilitate applicant participation in SOAP. (Section 6.7)
- During SOAP
 - Medical schools cannot engage in any communication concerning SOAP-eligible or -ineligible applicants before contact is initiated by an unfilled program;
 - 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. (Section 8.1)
- **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 8.2)
- 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 9.0)
- **UPDATED** With respect to the use of Match information, 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 authorized to anonymize and/or aggregate ranking and match outcome date for its own reporting purposes and contribute such anonymized, aggregated information to national databases or for NRMP-approved research purposes;
 - 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 10.0)