



Policy Corner – May 2025

The Importance of Match Policy

Every month in the Illuminator, we use the Policy Corner to provide timely tips and guidance about Match policies and procedures to help constituents navigate through each phase of the NRMP's Matching Programs. What we haven't done is share why we think Match policy is so important. Consider the following:

NRMP implements policies that are central to processing a Match

The NRMP is deeply committed to implementing policies that ensure all Match participants have a clear path through the matching process. That includes building policies that highlight the unique eligibility requirements for Match participation and emphasize the right of every individual to rank confidentially and without coercion.

NRMP implements policies central to maintaining fairness and transparency across the transition to residency

The NRMP also has been the steward of policies that speak to the entire transition to residency experience. We believe applicants and programs deserve access to honest information about each other that drives informed decisions about recruitment, matching, and training. Match participants also deserve a level of professionalism that respects and fosters healthy communication and interpersonal interaction, from interviews all the way through SOAP.

The NRMP is singular in its creation and implementation of a range of policies intended to limit coercion and gamesmanship while advocating for transparency, fairness, and ethical behavior across the transition to residency cycle. And because we know enforcement of Match policies can be consequential for participants, we spend considerable time educating on Match policy and engaging with participants to help them better understand and comply with Match rules. The NRMP recognizes and aims to accommodate the personal and professional experiences that arise for Match participants while also maintaining integrity of Match outcomes and a fair process for all.

We encourage you to visit the [NRMP policies](#) page on the NRMP website and read the [Why Match Policy Matters](#) page.

If you have questions, please contact us at policy@nrmp.org. We are happy to provide whatever assistance and support you need.