

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS – PROGRAMS

As part of registration for a Match, program directors must accept the terms of the Match Participation Agreement ("Agreement"). NRMP urges all program directors to read the Agreement thoroughly - once the Agreement is executed in the Registration, Ranking, and Results[®] (R3[®]) system, and NRMP accepts the registration, the Agreement becomes a binding contract.

Program directors are responsible for the entire [Match Participation Agreement](#), but the bullets below highlight key parts of the Agreement (and where to find them in the Agreement) that can make it easier to navigate the Match and Match policies.

- No part of the data provided by NRMP may be used as an input to or otherwise in connection with any machine learning or artificial intelligence models, algorithms or other tools without the express written consent of the NRMP. (Section 1.0)
- Programs participating in the Main Residency Match must register and attempt to fill all of their positions in the Match or another national matching plan. Programs also must select U.S. MD and DO senior students ("sponsored applicants") only through the Match or another national matching plan. (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 eligibility requirements for any residency position. (Section 4.0)
- All programs who participate in the Match are expected to provide to applicants 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. (Section 4.0)
- Programs should be aware that Match registration fees will not be waived for programs that are activated and subsequently withdrawn from the Match, either by the sponsoring institution, the program, or the NRMP.
- During the recruitment phase, programs must extend interview offers that equal not exceed the total number of available interview slots, provide applicants no less than 48 hours to accept or reject an interview invitation, and apply reasonable measures (e.g., one-to-two weeks' notice) in the event of cancellation or rescheduling of interviews. (Section 6.2)
- Programs affiliated with medical schools providing three-year medical education curriculum must not enter into agreements with students regarding training positions outside of the Match. Programs must not:
 - Promise or guarantee residency training positions;
 - Offer "conditional acceptance," "pre-matched," or "matched" positions outside of the Match;
 - Compel, request, or require that students commit to training prior to the release of Match results;
 - Indicate or imply that training is secured or guaranteed before Match results are released; or
 - Prevent applicants from exploring, applying to, interviewing with, or ranking programs of their choice. (Section 6.6)

- Programs are required to disclose to applicants, at the start of recruitment, the application service or process they will require for both Main Residency Match and SOAP. (Section 6.3.1)
- Programs must ensure that each applicant placed on the program's rank order list meets the necessary requirements for state licensure. (Section 7.3.1)
- 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 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 8.1.1)
 - Programs electing not to participate in SOAP cannot solicit or consider applications from or extend offers to any applicants until SOAP concludes. (Section 8.1.2)
- 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)
- Programs should report known or suspected violations of the Match Agreement within one year of learning about the incident. If the suspected violation involves a matched applicant, the violation must have occurred no later than the 45th day after the start date of the appointment contract. (Section 12.2)
- 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.
 - 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 14.0)