Ranking in the Main Residency Match

PRESENTED BY:
Jeanette Calli, MS, Chief of Match Operations
Joy Gaabucayan, Director of Policy & Compliance

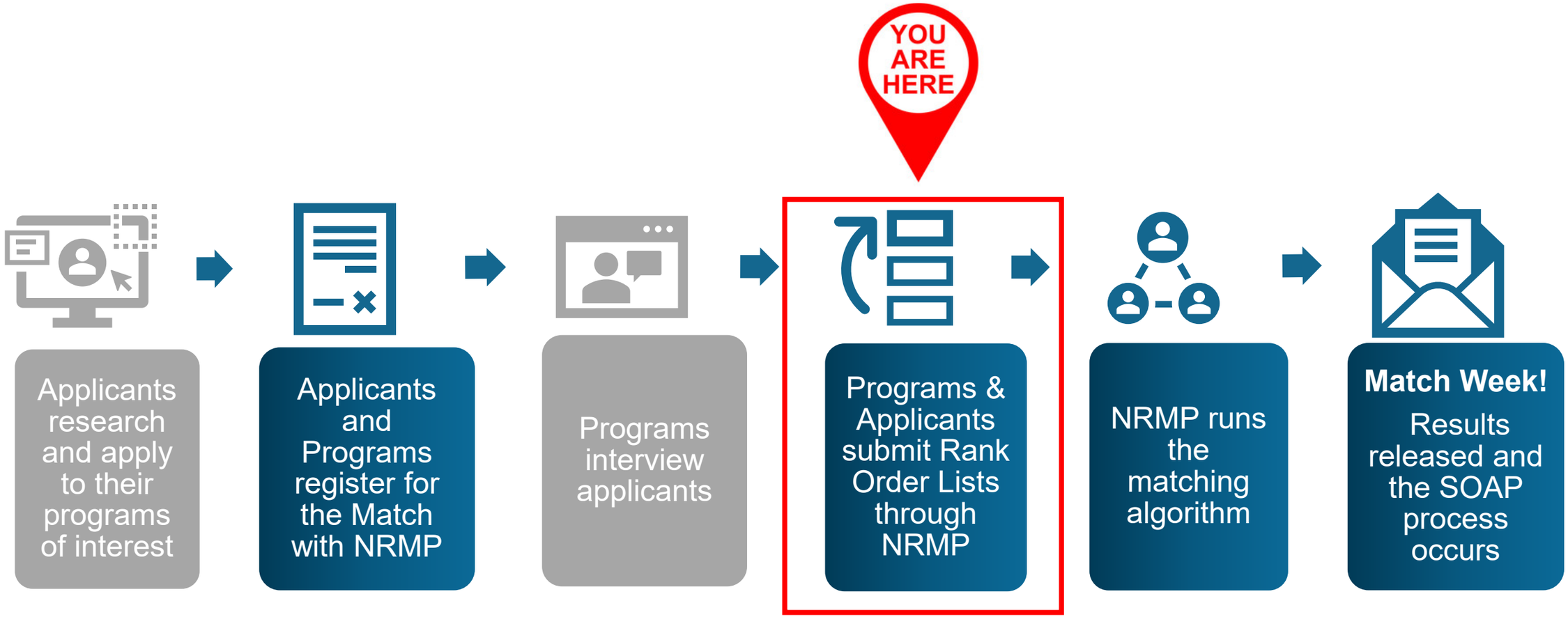
THE MATCH®
NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM®

Agenda

- Match Dates and Deadlines
- Applicant Eligibility & Verification
- Match Policy
- Program Types and Codes
- Entering Your Rank Order List (ROL)
- Ranking Fees
- Voluntary ROL Lock Pilot
- How the Matching Algorithm Works
- Ranking Wisdom
- Resources and Support

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

The Application and Matching Process



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Match Dates and Deadlines

Standard Registration Deadline

January 30 at 11:59 PM ET
$50 additional fee for late registration after January 30 for the Match and SOAP

Ranking Opens

February 2 at 12:00 PM ET
for applicants and programs to begin entering lists in the NRMP's Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system.

ROL Certification Deadline

March 4 by 9:00 PM ET.
ROL Certification deadline and last day to register or withdraw from the Match

Match Week and SOAP

March 16–20
SOAP begins March 16 and Match Day is on March 20 at 12:00 PM ET

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Eligibility for the Match

Applicants must be verified as eligible to participate

Applicants must be registered in the NRMP and verified as eligible by March 4th to participate in the Match and SOAP.

There is no separate SOAP registration.

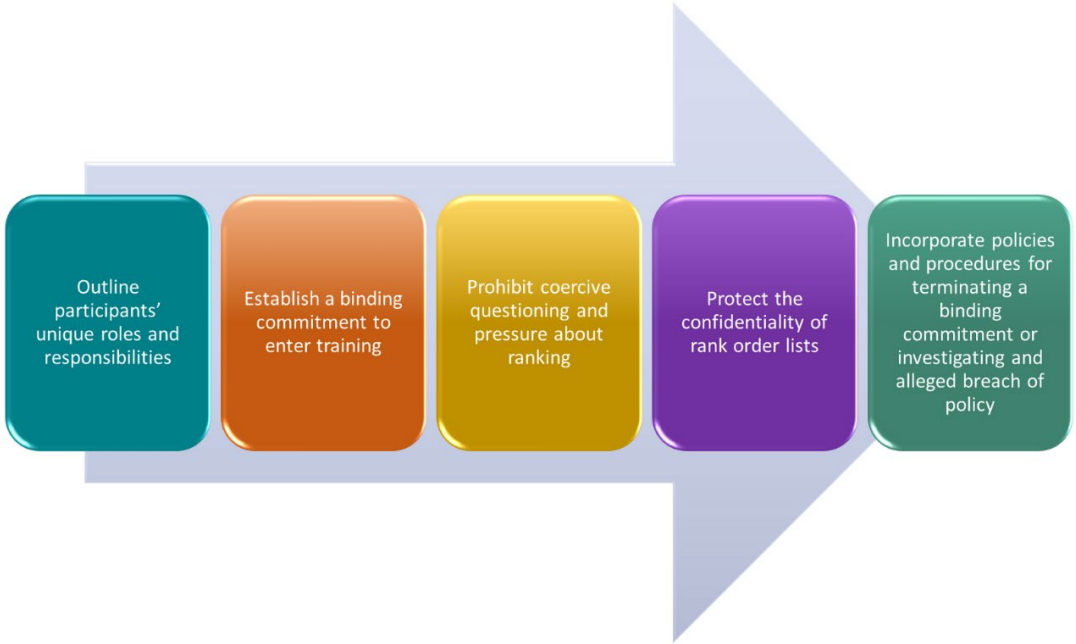
To participate in the Match and SOAP, applicants must register with NRMP, pay Match fees, and be verified as eligible to enter graduate medical education training on July 1, 2026

- How an applicant is verified depends on applicant type:
  - ✓ Medical Schools verify eligibility for US MD and DO Seniors and Graduates
  - ✓ The ECFMG® verifies credentials of International Medical Graduates (IMGs)
- Medical Schools began verifying their medical students and graduates on February 2, when ranking opened
- Each sponsoring institution (e.g., a teaching hospital) and program will have additional eligibility requirements

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Why Policy Matters

- NRMP policies promote a fair and equitable Match experience
- Participants can consider all options before making commitments
- Participants are prohibited from engaging in coercive or unwarranted pressure
- An impartial venue exists for matching participants' preferences
- Participants are held accountable for ethical and professionally responsible behavior



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Match Policy-Accurate Information

Section 6.3 Complete, Timely and Accurate Information

Applicants are responsible for ensuring the completeness, timeliness, and accuracy of all information provide to programs. This includes:

- *All written, electronic, and verbal information provided to the medical school and representatives of the medical School;*
- *All information entered on the application either through the Electronic Residency Application Services("ERAS")or other application process or service;*
- *All information provided to agencies and organizations that provide visa services and ECFMG certification;*
- *All Written, electronic, and verbal information provided to the programs and program representatives throughout the recruitment, the onboarding cycle, and the 45th day following the appointment start date; and*
- *All written, electronic, and verbal information provided to the NRMP.*

Applicants who submit incomplete, misleading, false, or plagiarized information may be deemed to have violated this Agreement.

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Match Policy-Submission or Rank Order Lists

Section 7.2 Submission or Rank Order Lists

Applicants have a right to be free of persuasion and should report to the NRMP any violations of these rights. Programs are not authorized to:

To participate in the Match, applicants must enter and certify their final rank order list in the R3 system before the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. Certification of the rank order list will confirm the applicant's full participation in the Match and agreement to:

- *Adhere to the binding commitment to accept an appointment if a match result(s); and.*
- *Start training in good faith (i.e., with the intent to complete training) on the date specified in the appointment agreement.*
- *Non-U.S. citizen applicants requiring a visa are responsible for confirming the institution's willingness to sponsor the visa-type intended by the applicant before certifying their rank order list*

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Communication During SOAP

SOAP-eligible applicants:

- Can access the *List of Unfilled Programs* in NRMP only for positions for which they are eligible.
- Can apply only to unfilled Match-participating programs that are participating in SOAP.
- Are prohibited from using any means other than the application designated by the program to apply to and contact programs.

No contacting programs until the program initiates contact with you!

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Match Binding Commitment

Section 10.0 Binding Commitment

Upon conclusion of the Match and SOAP, matched applicants:

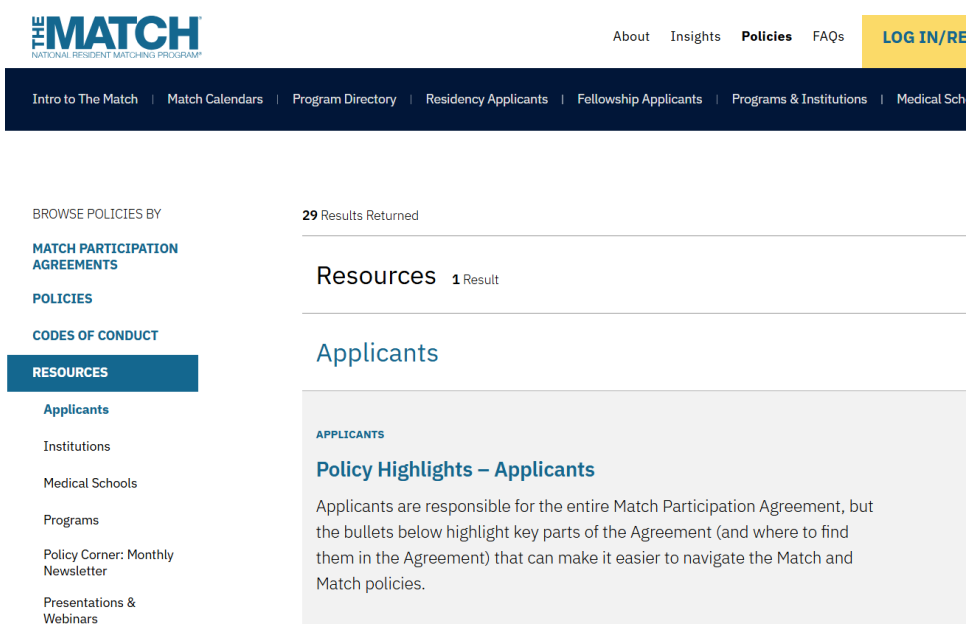
1. Are in a binding commitment with the program and must accept an appointment as matched or offered:
   a) Applicants with a Match or SOAP commitment who seek a concurrent year position, absent a waiver or deferral from the NRMP, shall be presumed to have violated this Agreement.
2. Must begin training on the start date specified in the appointment contract with the intent to complete the program:
   a) The binding commitment will be deemed to have been honored by the applicant so long as the applicant enters and remains in the training program through the first 45 calendar days after the start date of the relevant appointment contract
   b) The binding commitment exists through the first 45 calendar days of the start date of the relevant appointment contract.
   c) Programs terminating a resident within 45 days of the start date specified in the appointment agreement, without having an approved waiver or deferral from the NRMP, will be in violation of this Agreement
   d) Applicants who give notice of resignation, resign, or vacate a position within 45 days of the start date specified in the appointment agreement, without having an approved waiver or deferral from the NRMP, will be in violation of this Agreement.

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Policy Resources for Applicants

Match Code of Conduct: Applicants

Policy Tips/Reminders
What Applicants Need to Know



Email policy@nrmp.org

Website www.nrmp.org/policies

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Types of Programs in the Match

Categorical	**C**	Training that is 3-7 years in length, begins in the PGY-1 year, and leads to specialty board certification.
Primary Care Categorical	**M**	Categorical programs in primary care offered by some Internal Medicine and Pediatrics programs.
Preliminary	**P**	Training that is one year in length in transitional, medicine, surgery, or other specialty programs and provides the prerequisite training for advanced programs.
Advanced	**A**	Training that is 3-4 years in length in specialty programs that begin after one or more years of preliminary training. Advanced positions in the 2026 Match are PGY-2 positions that begin in 2027.
Reserved-Physician	**R**	Training in specialty programs reserved for physicians with prior graduate medical education and who can enter advanced training in the year of the Match. Reserved-Physician positions in the 2026 Match are PGY-2 positions that begin in 2026.

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Program Codes

Every program has a unique 9-11-character code:

- Characters 1-4: the institution code
- Characters 5-7: the ACGME specialty code
- Character 8: program type letter
- Character 9-11: track number

Ex: 1000400C0

Codes can be found in the R3 or public Program Directory. Programs also should provide the NRMP program code to assist you in ranking.

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

The Rank Order List (ROL)

Your list of programs, ranked in order of preference, where you wish to train

ROLs are created and certified electronically in the NRMP Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system

Can be a mix of specialties, program types, geographic location

- Based on your preferences

Rank only programs where you are eligible and willing to train

- Putting a program on your ROL creates a binding commitment if a match occurs

Many programs have multiple program types and tracks

- Ensure you are ranking the correct track(s)

Can include up to 20 unique program codes on the primary ROL and up to 20 unique program codes on all supplemental ROLs combined before extra fees apply

- Extra fees are due at certification and are not refundable

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Primary vs. Supplemental ROL

What is a Primary ROL?

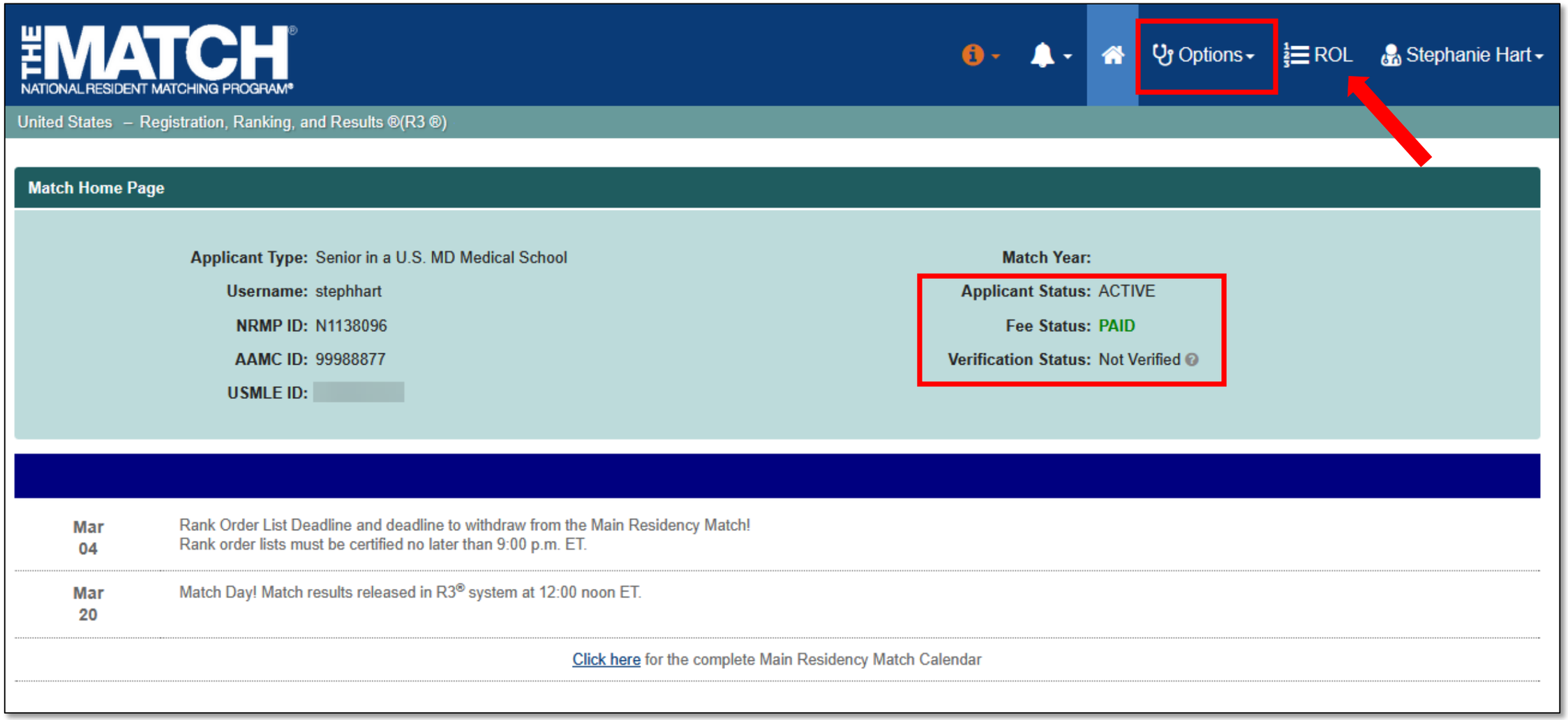
- List for categorical, advanced, physician-reserved programs, and sometimes preliminary programs
- Can be a mix of geographic location and specialties

What is a Supplemental ROL?

- List for preliminary programs that are attached to any advanced programs on the primary ROL
- Intended to provide full course of training
- Can be a mix of geographic location and specialties
- Can have up to 16 unique supplemental lists

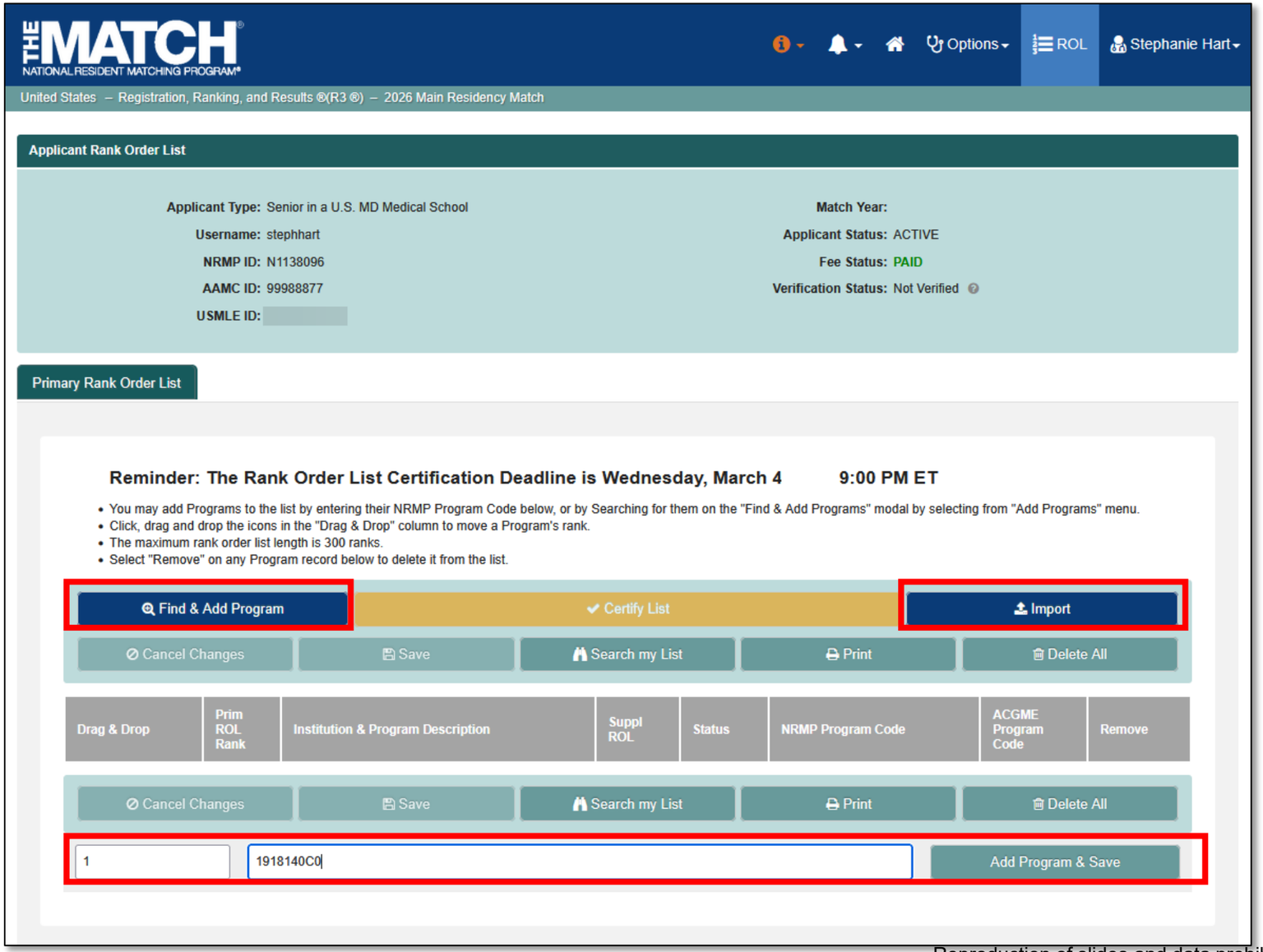
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Entering Your Rank Order List

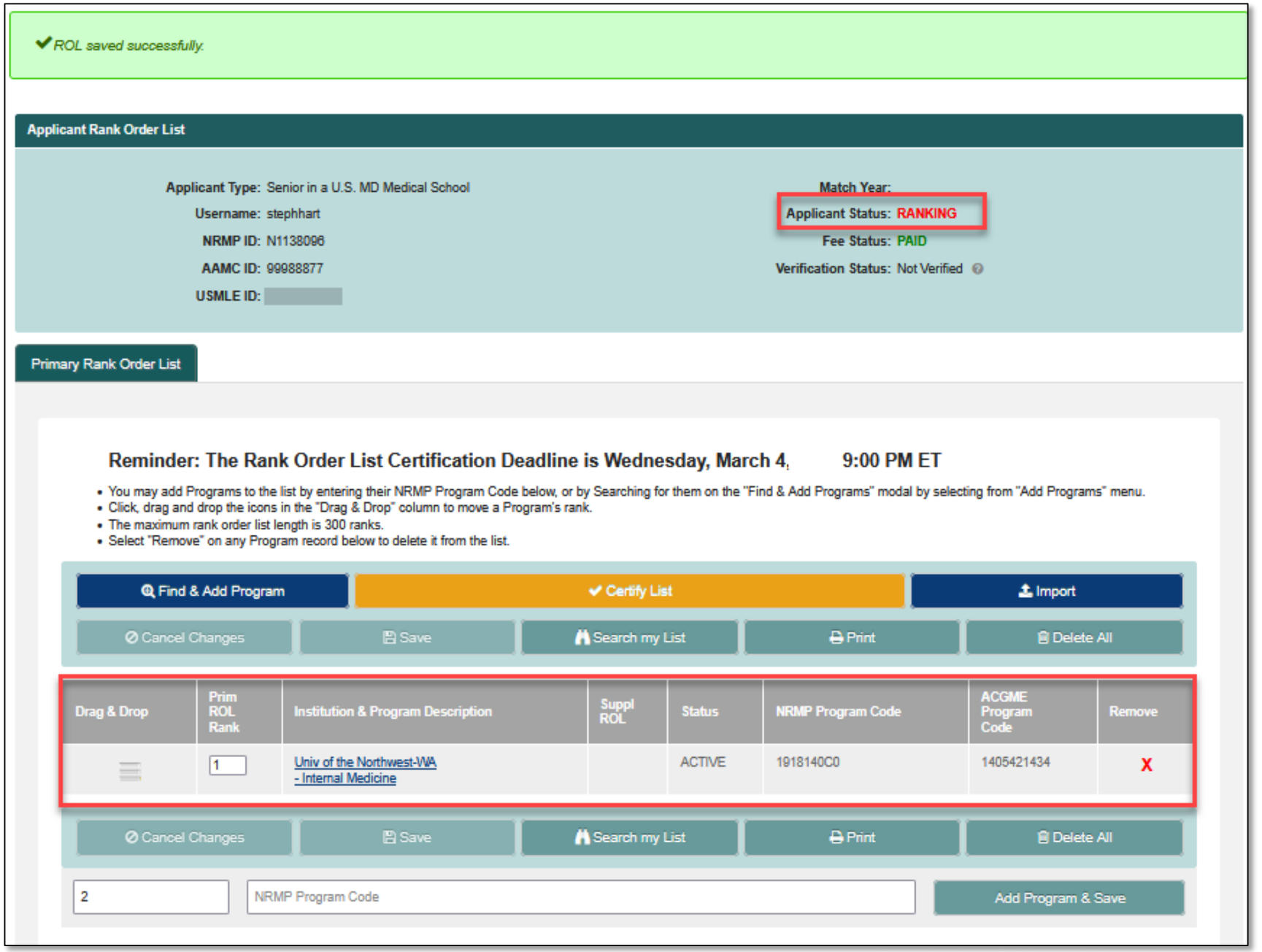


Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

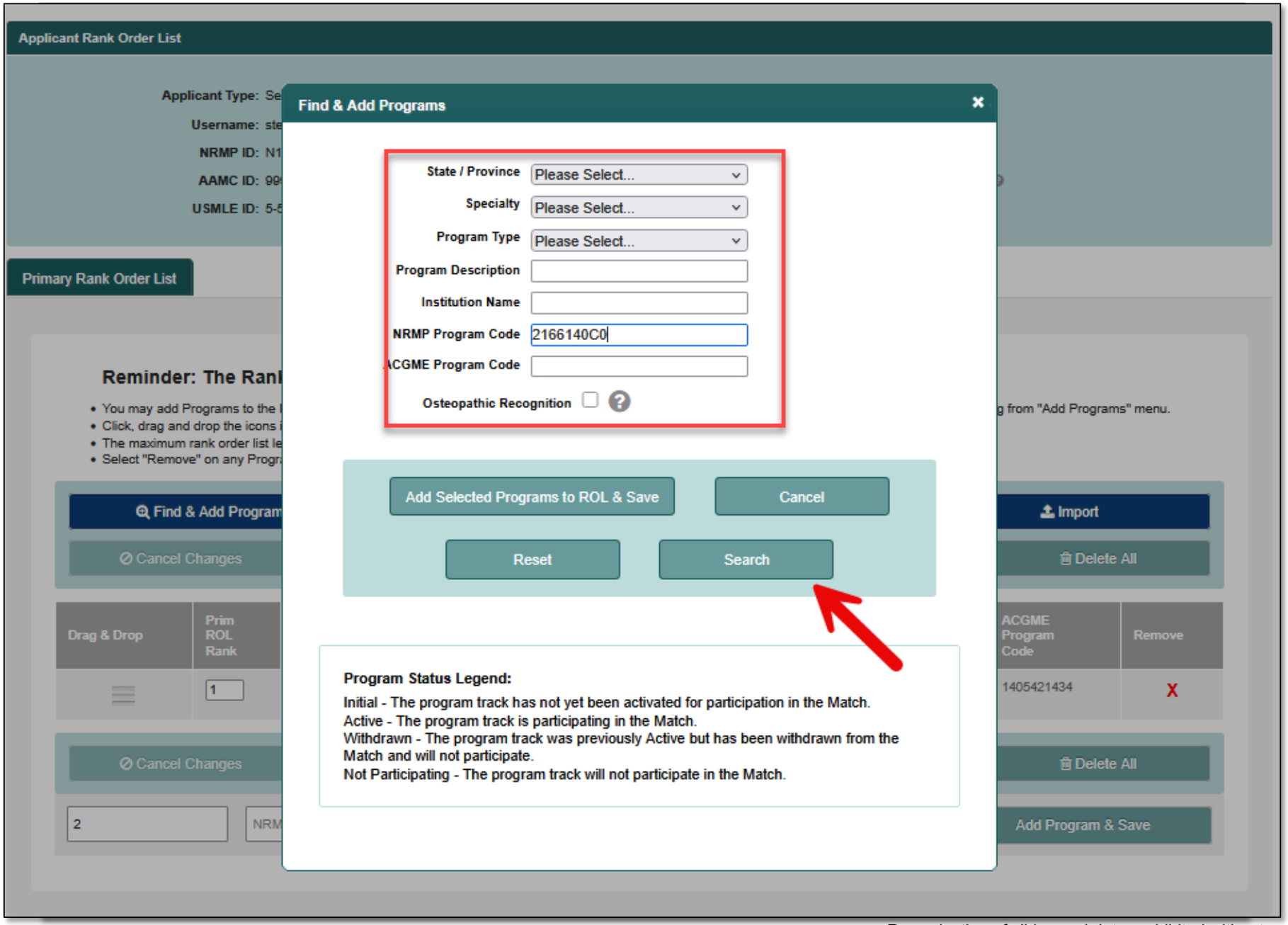
Entering Your Rank Order List



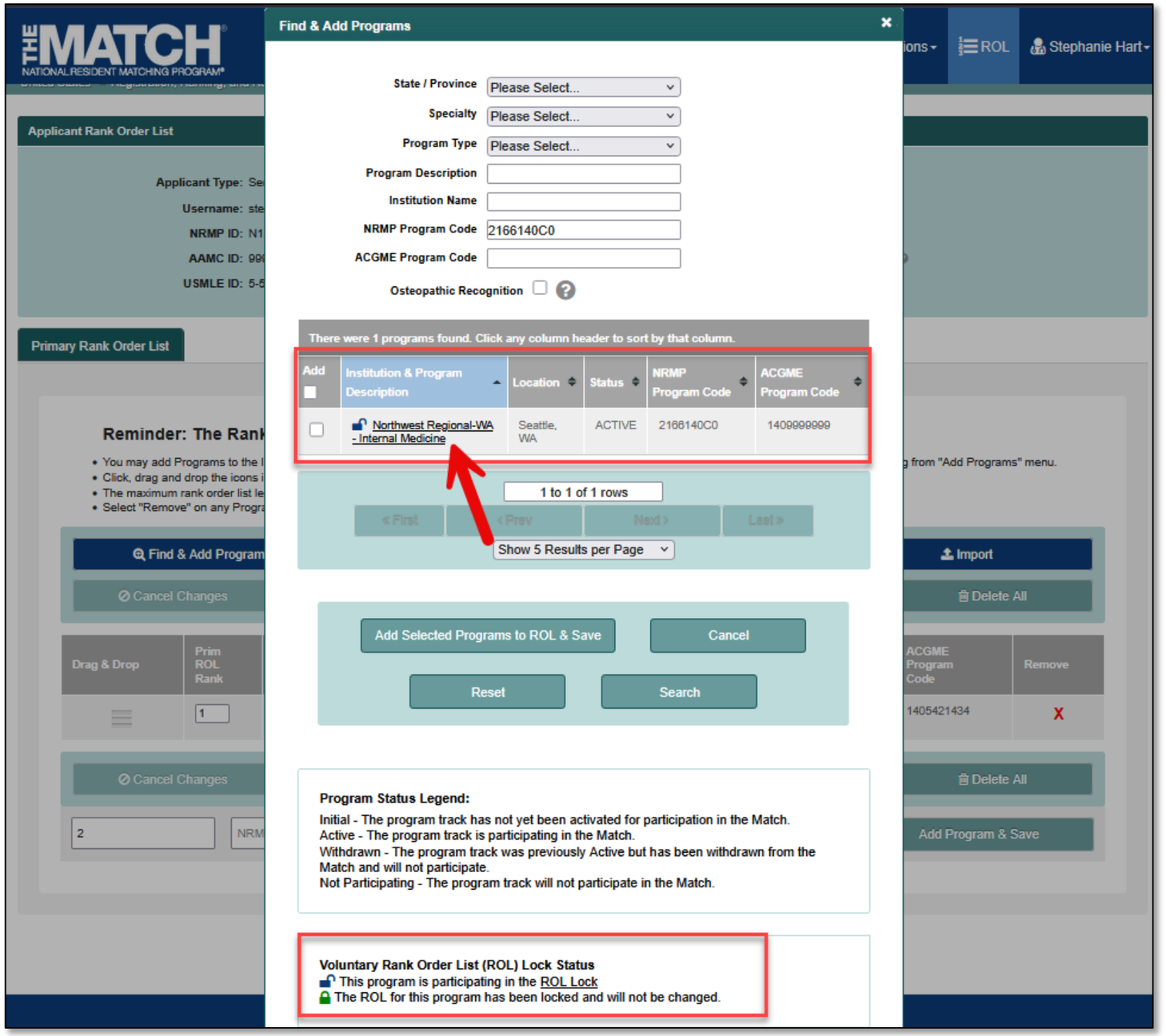
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



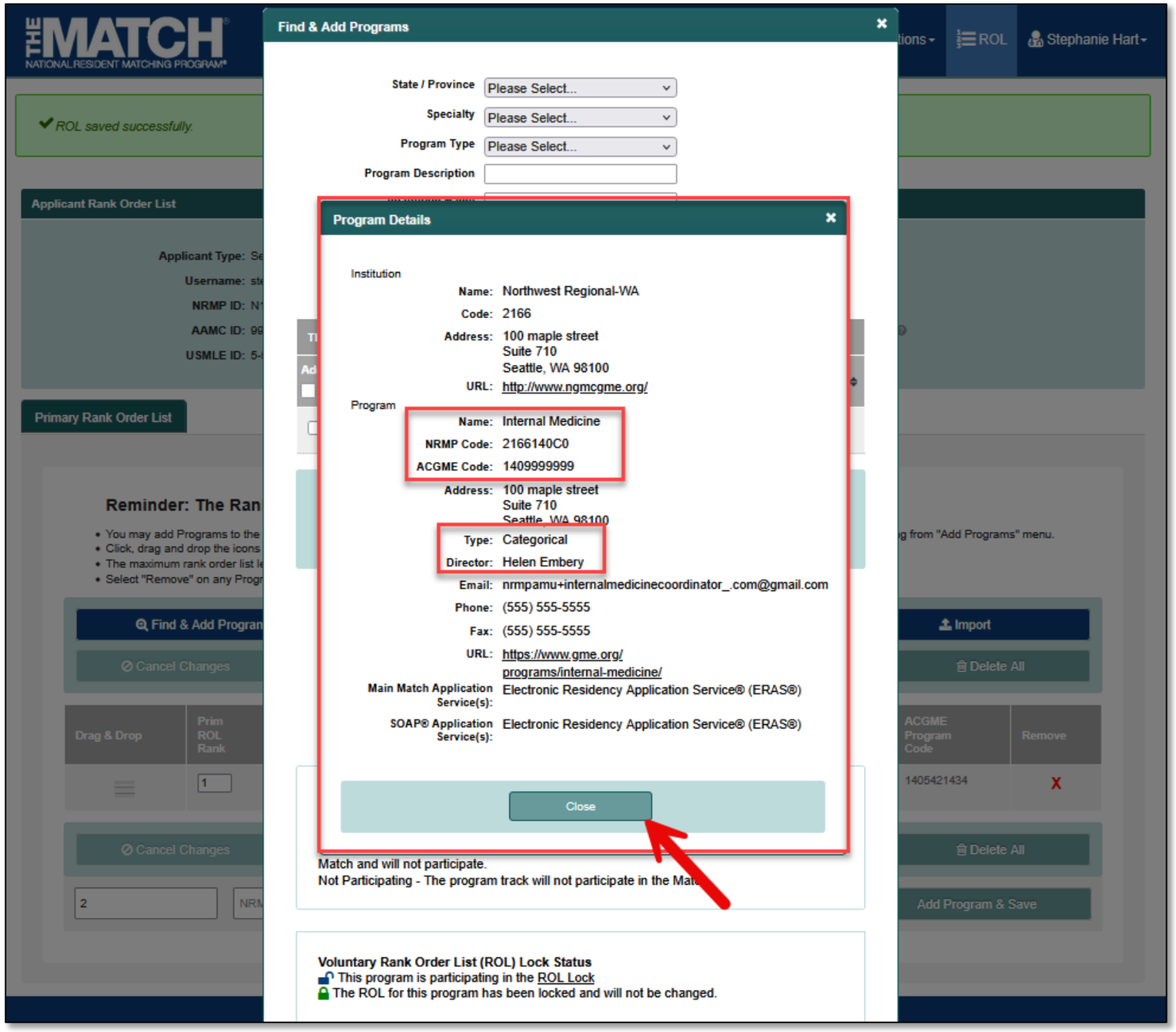
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



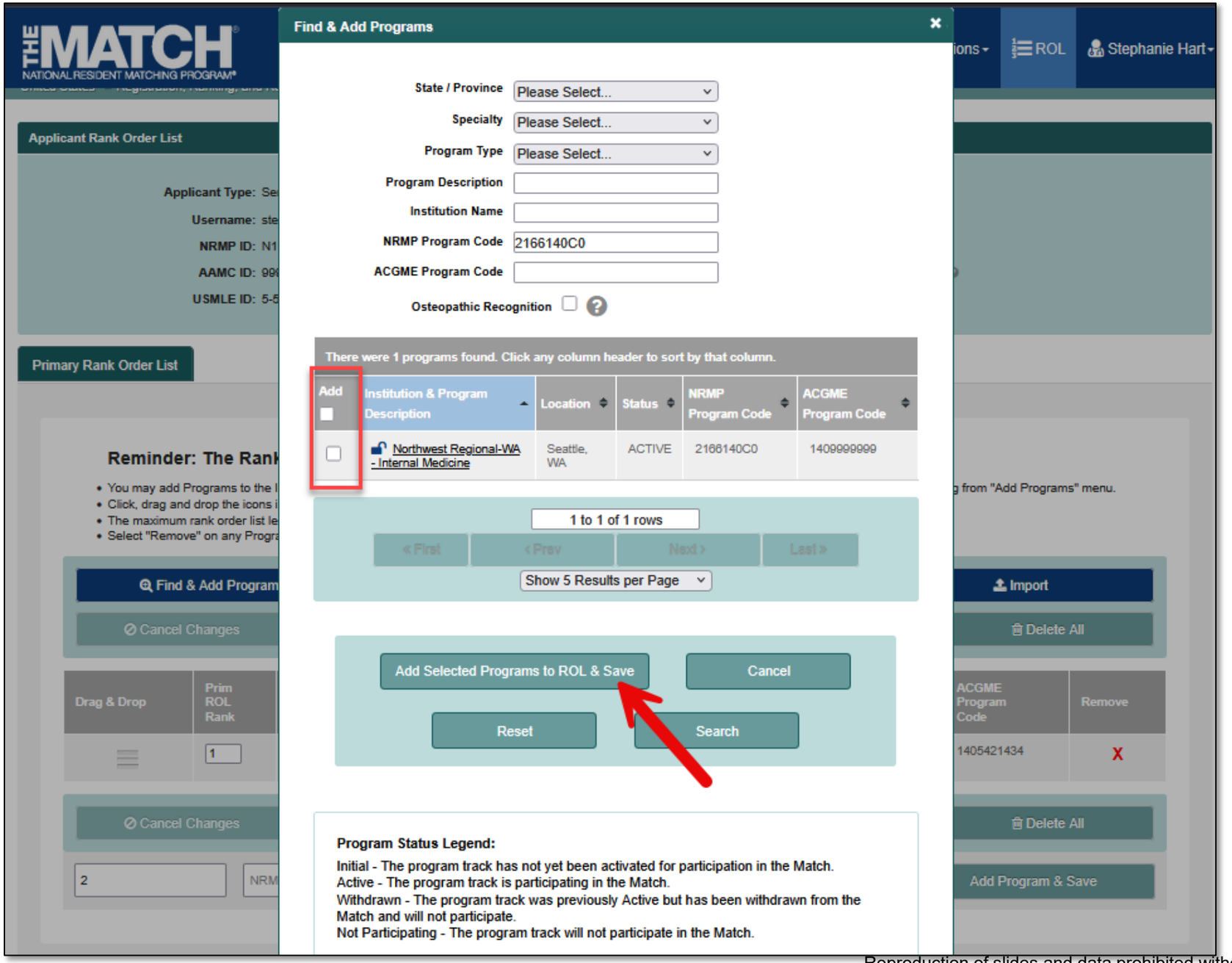
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



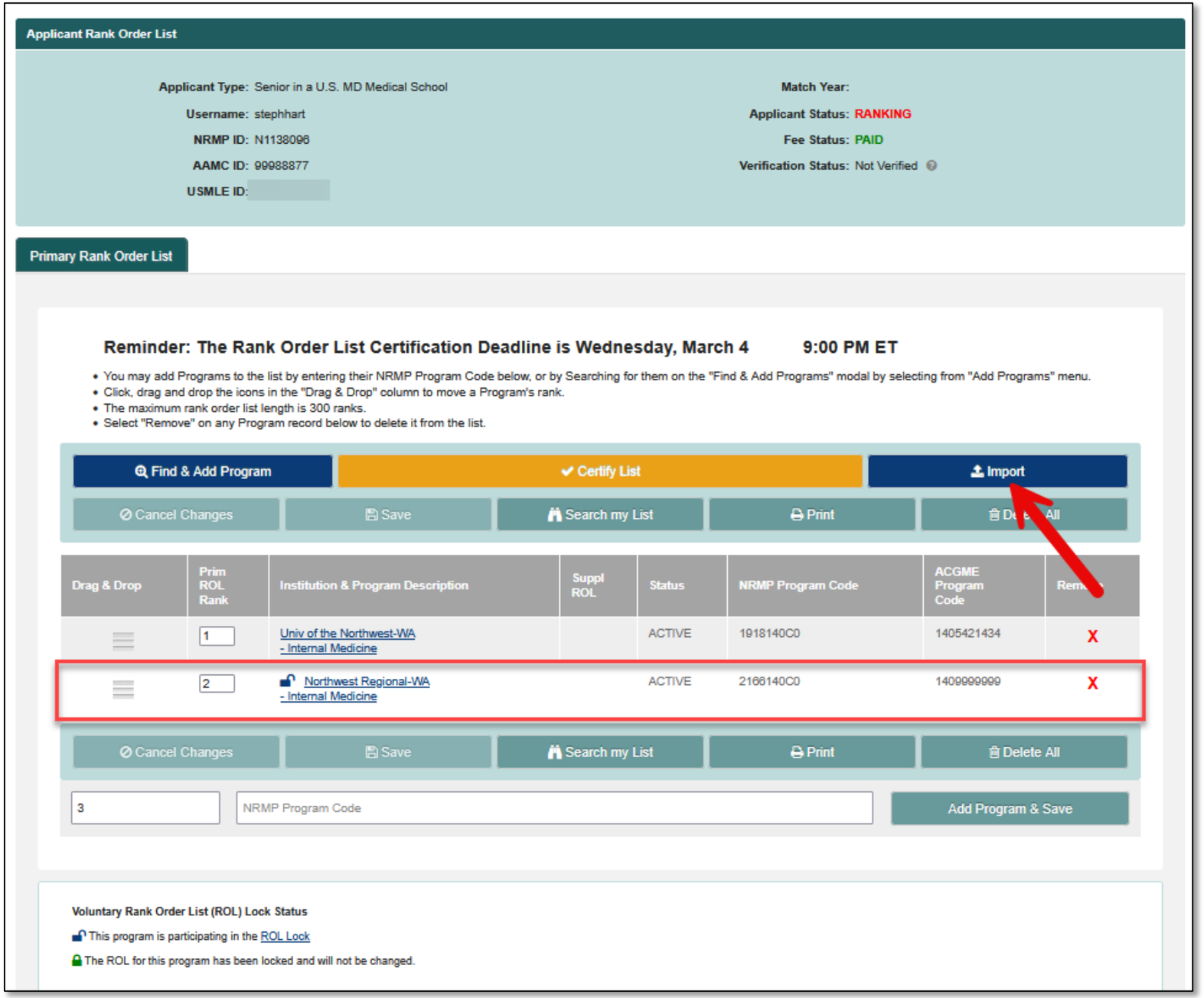
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



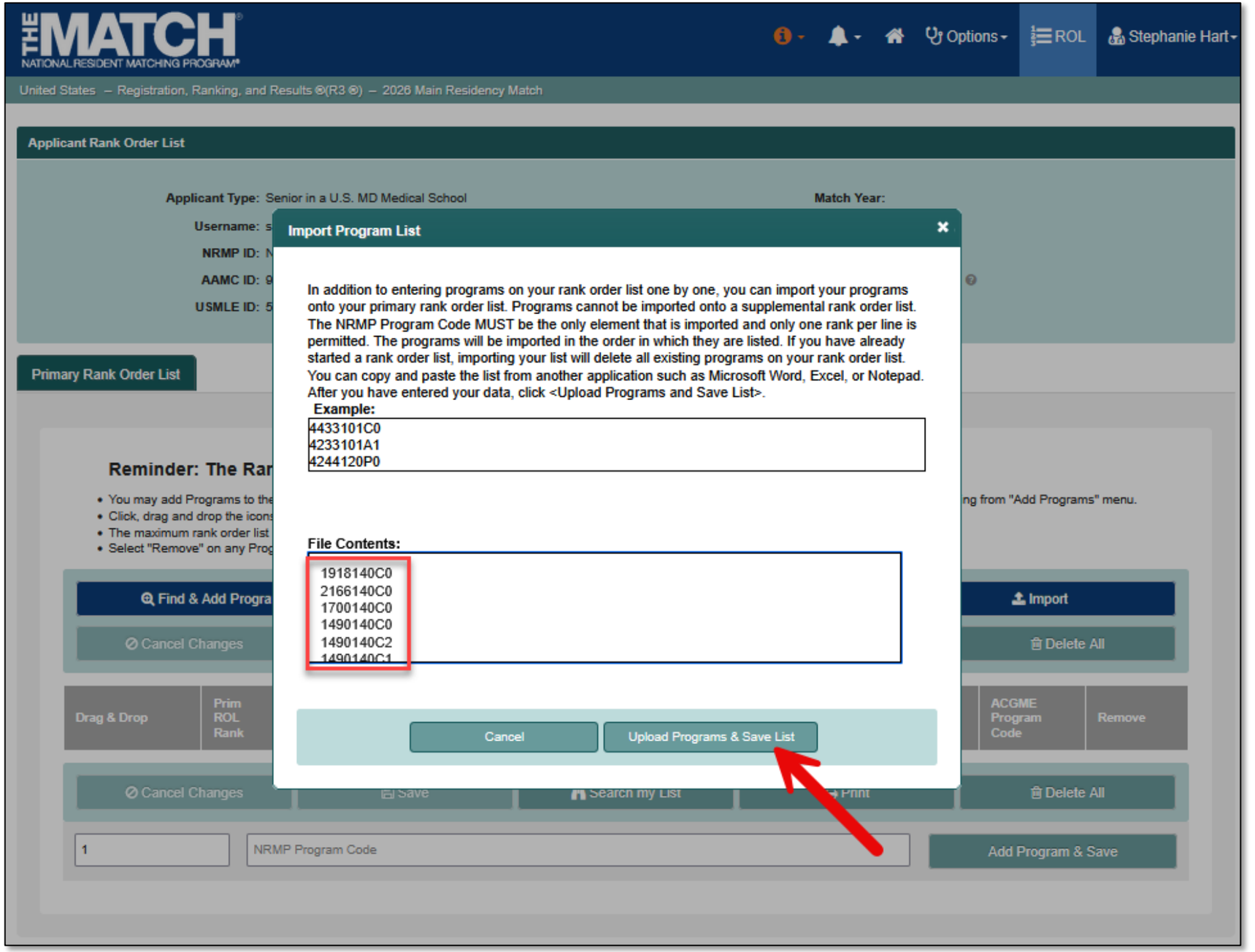
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



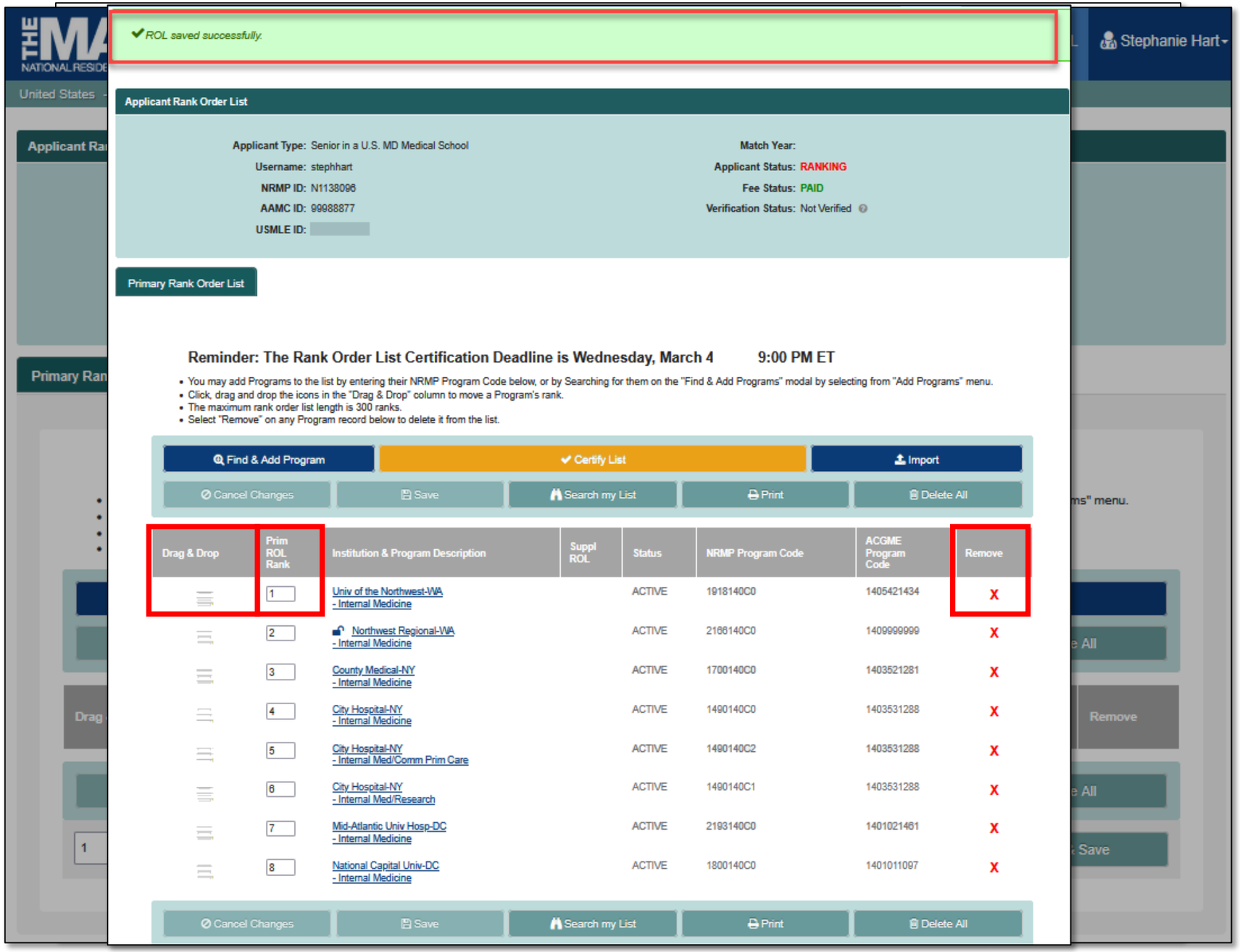
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



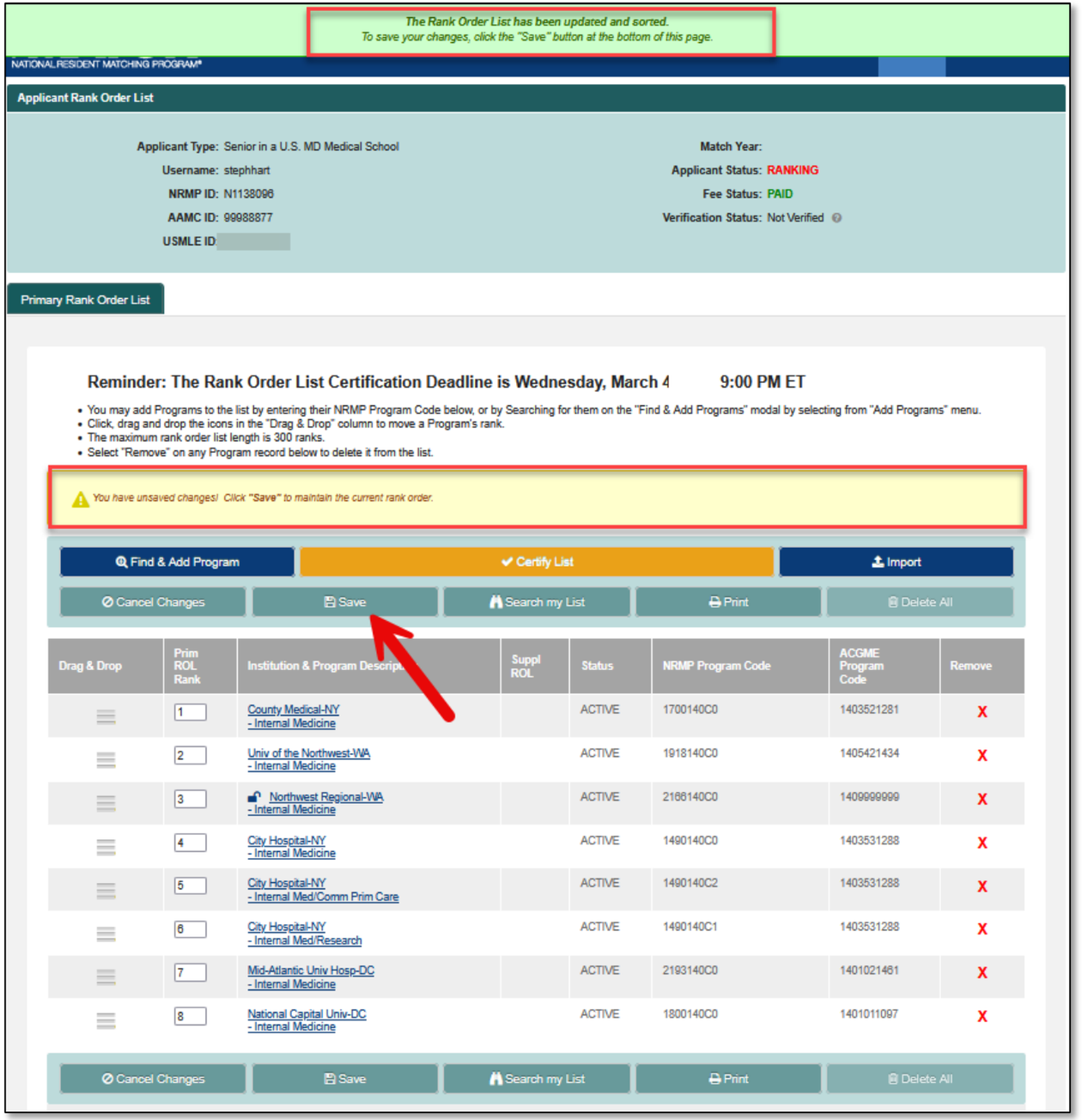
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



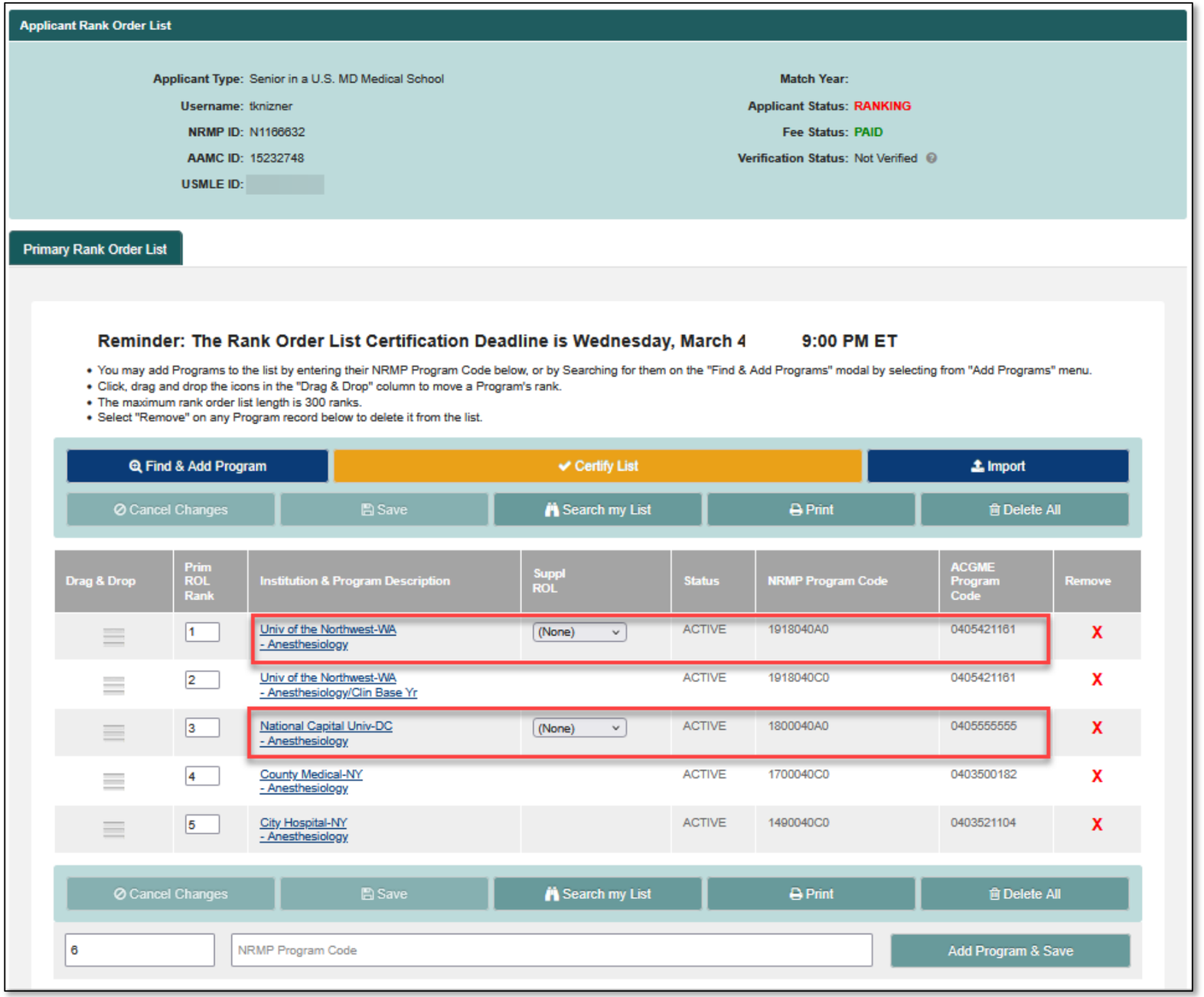
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



Applicant Rank Order List

Applicant Type: Senior in a U.S. MD Medical School
Username: tknizner
NRMP ID: N1166632
AAMC ID: 15232748
USMLE ID:

Match Year:
Applicant Status: RANKING
Fee Status: PAID
Verification Status: Not Verified

Primary Rank Order List

Reminder: The Rank Order List Certification Deadline is Wednesday, March 4 9:00 PM ET

- You may add Programs to the list by entering their NRMP Program Code below, or by Searching for them on the "Find & Add Programs" modal by selecting from "Add Programs" menu.
- Click, drag and drop the icons in the "Drag & Drop" column to move a Program's rank.
- The maximum rank order list length is 300 ranks.
- Select "Remove" on any Program record below to delete it from the list.

Find & Add Program | Certify List | Import

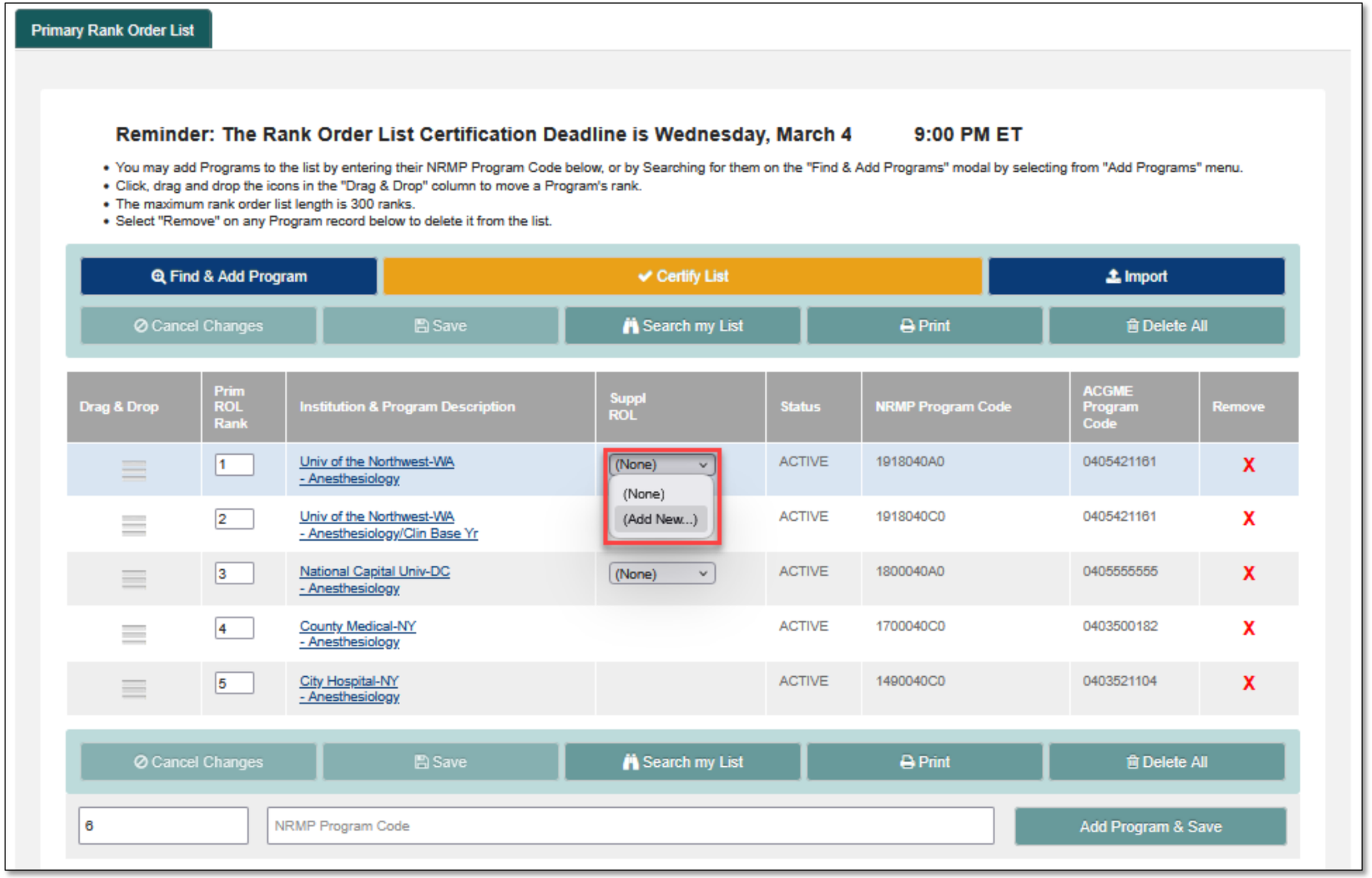
Cancel Changes | Save | Search my List | Print | Delete All

Drag & Drop	Prim ROL Rank	Institution & Program Description	Suppl ROL	Status	NRMP Program Code	ACGME Program Code	Remove
	1	Univ of the Northwest-WA - Anesthesiology	(None)	ACTIVE	1918040A0	0405421161	X
	2	Univ of the Northwest-WA - Anesthesiology/Clin Base Yr		ACTIVE	1918040C0	0405421161	X
	3	National Capital Univ-DC - Anesthesiology	(None)	ACTIVE	1800040A0	0405555555	X
	4	County Medical-NY - Anesthesiology		ACTIVE	1700040C0	0403500182	X
	5	City Hospital-NY - Anesthesiology		ACTIVE	1490040C0	0403521104	X

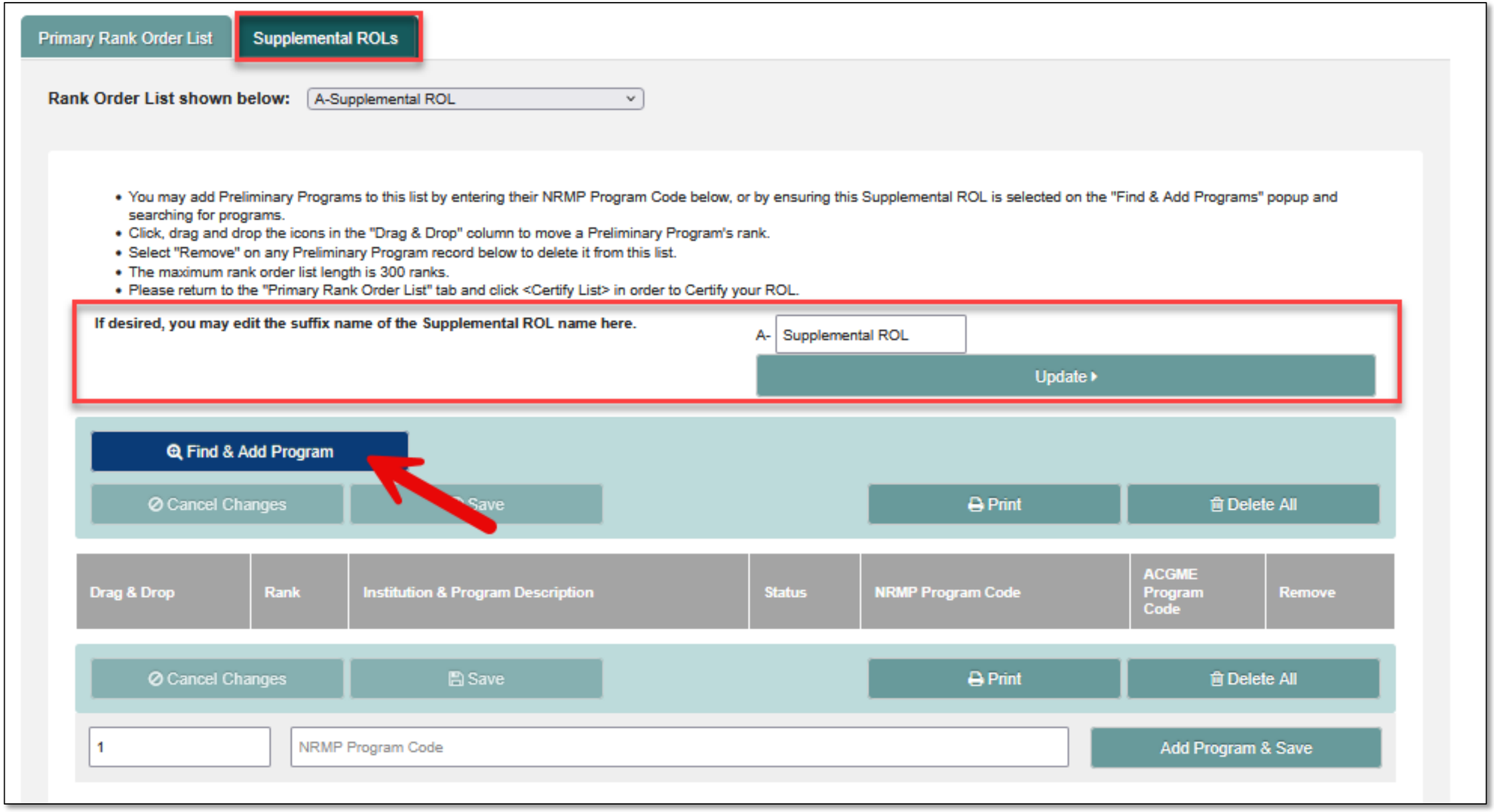
Cancel Changes | Save | Search my List | Print | Delete All

6 | NRMP Program Code | Add Program & Save

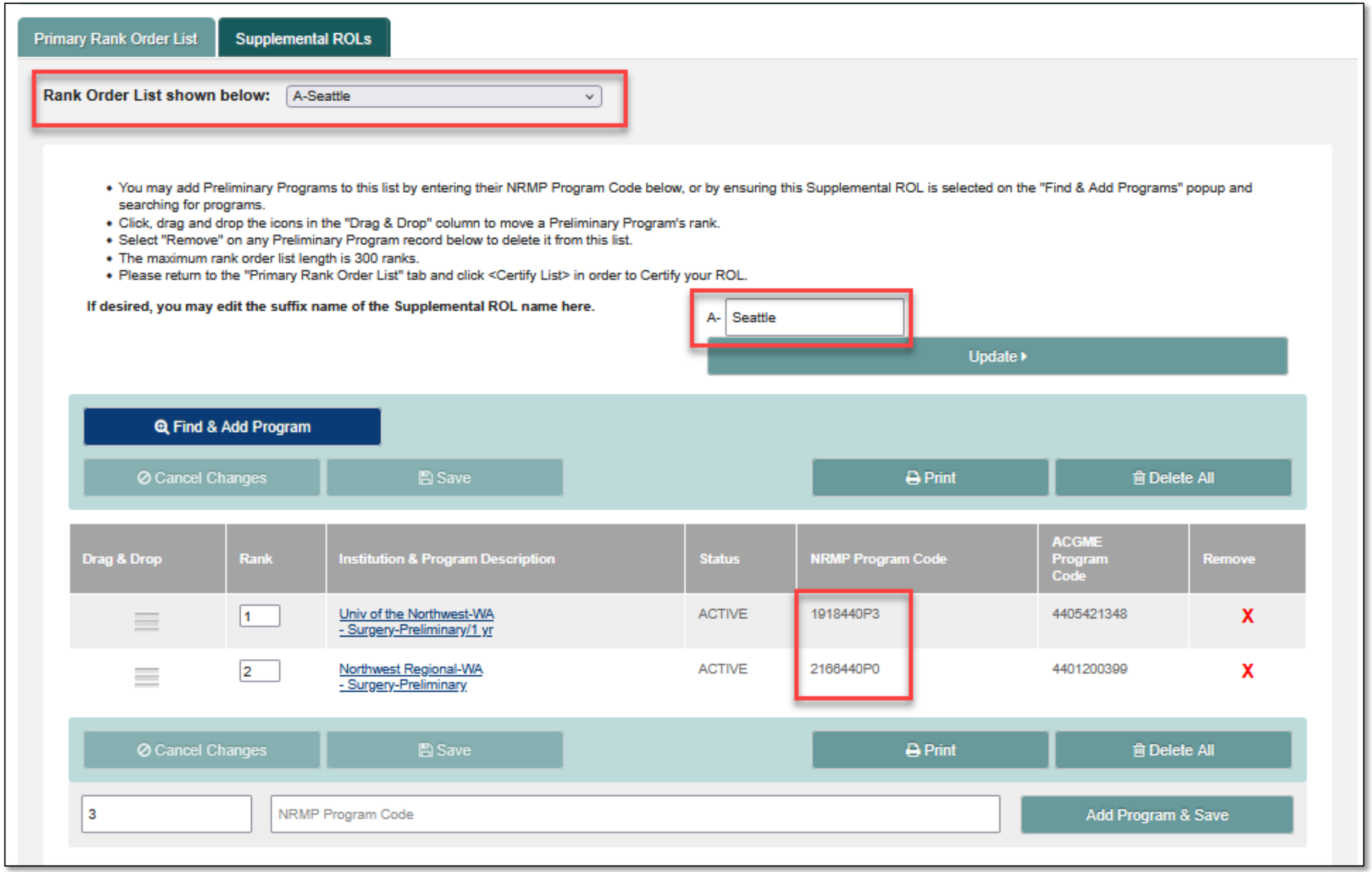
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



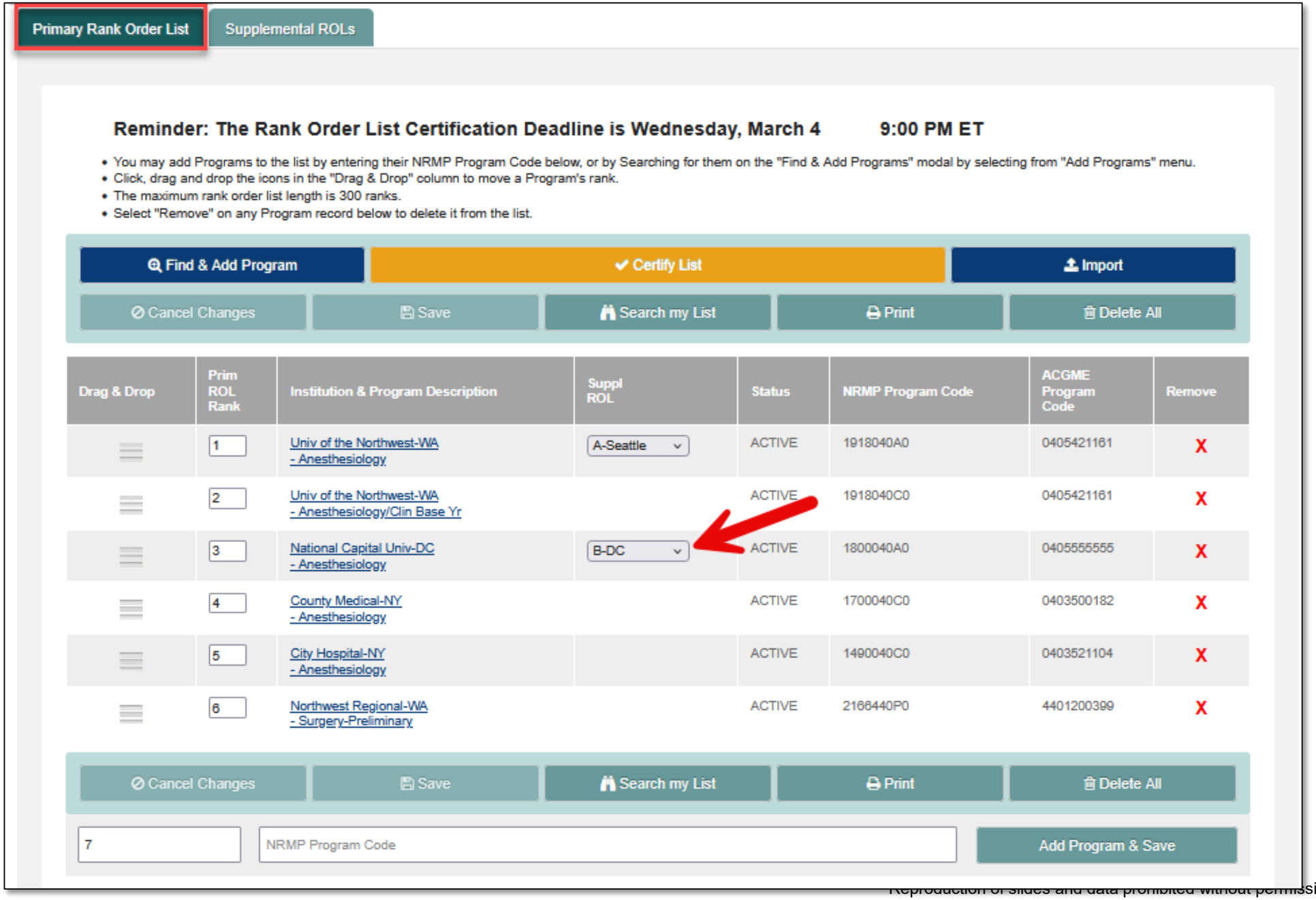
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Couples Rank Order Lists

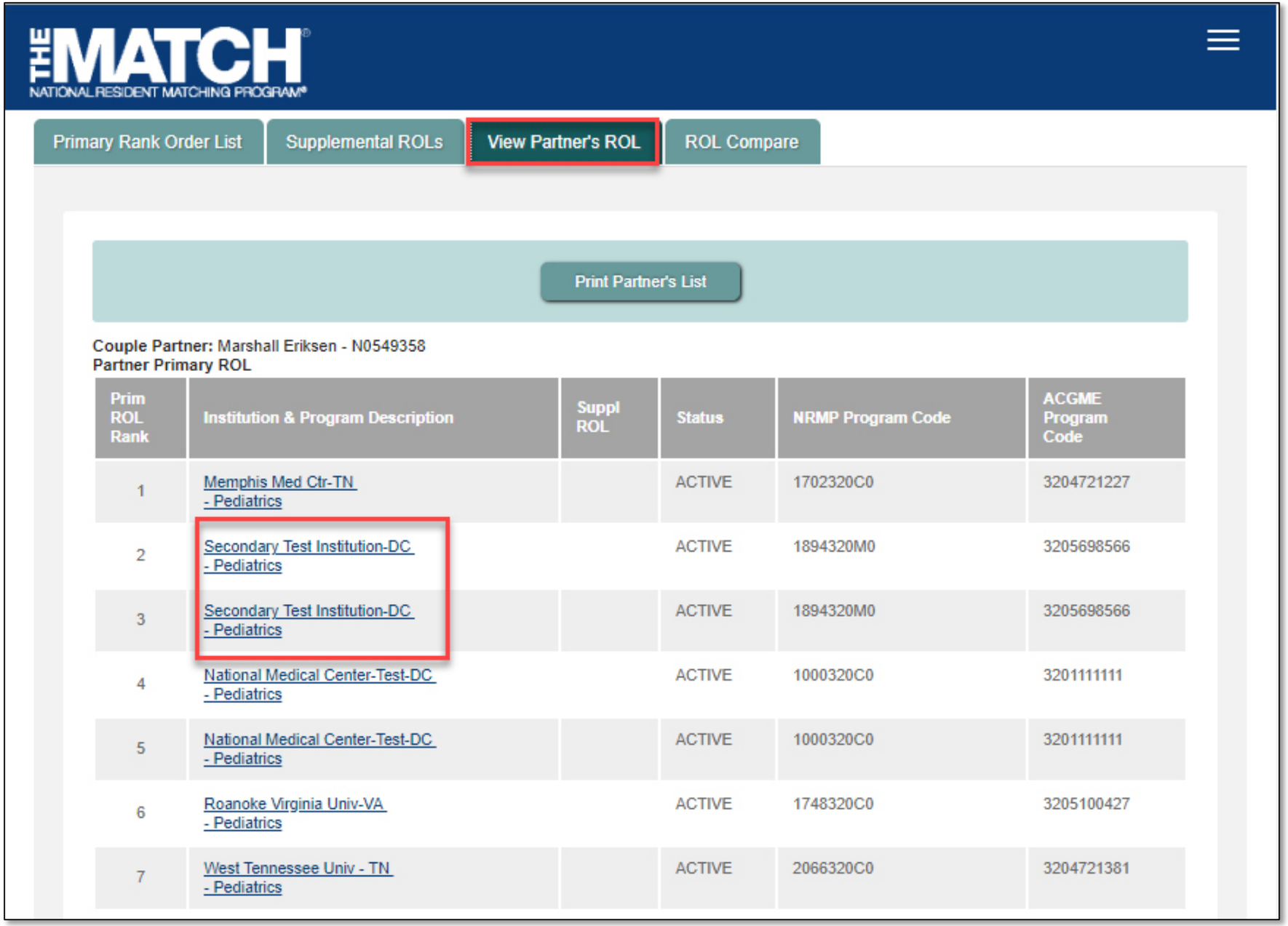
Coupling allows two applicants to link their rank order lists, usually for purposes of obtaining positions in the same geographic location

- ROLs form **pairs** of program choices
  - A couple will match to the most preferred pair of programs on their rank order lists where each partner has been offered a position
- Partners must have the same number of ranks and can submit no more than 300 ranks
- Option to rank a “No Match” code (999999999) at the bottom of the rank order list
- Check for duplicate pairs before certifying rank order lists

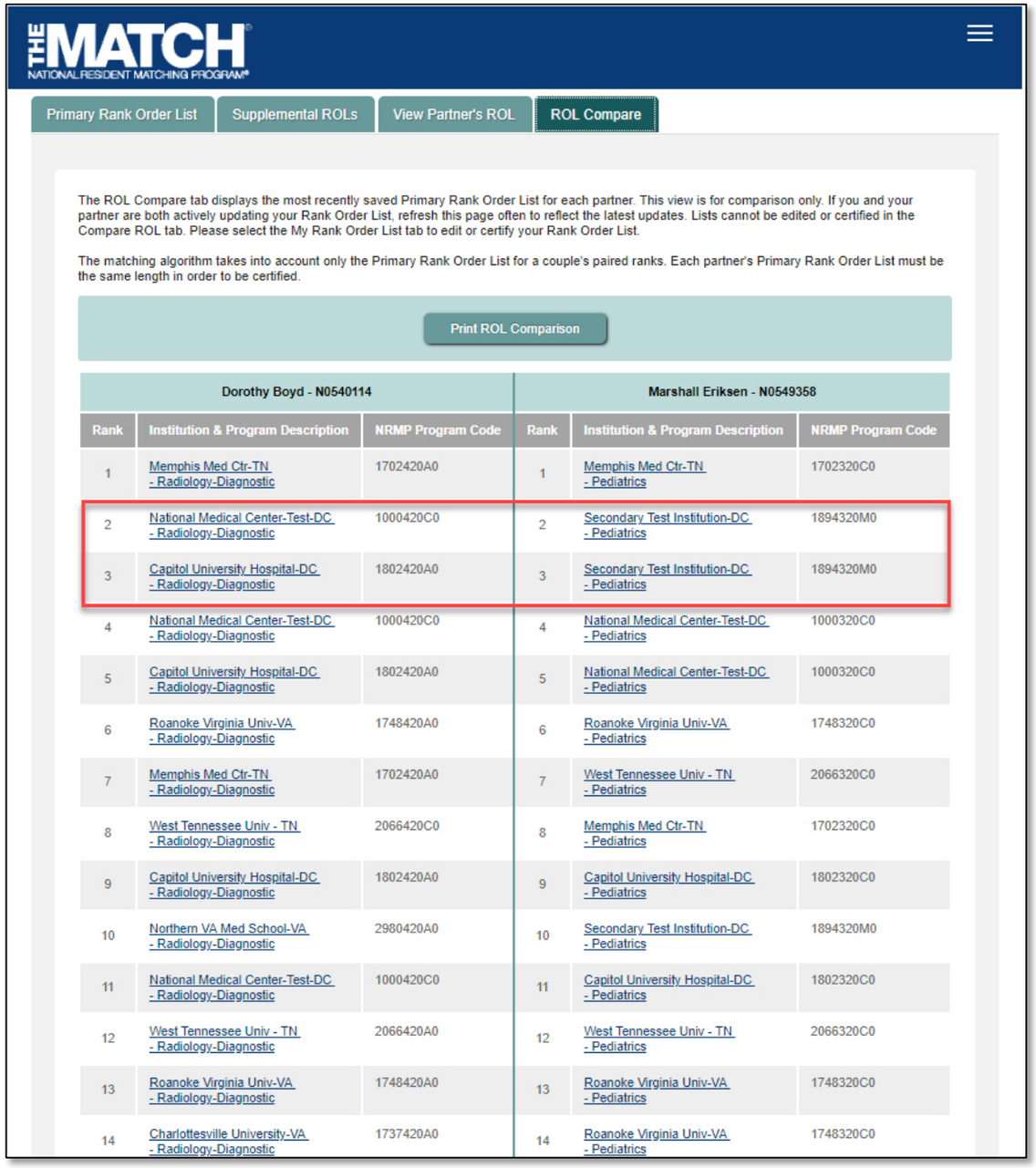
Couple Resources & Support Guides

If applicants do not match as a couple, the algorithm does not process their ROLs separately to find a possible match for each individual.

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP



THE MATCH®
NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM®

Primary Rank Order List | Supplemental ROLs | View Partner's ROL | ROL Compare

The ROL Compare tab displays the most recently saved Primary Rank Order List for each partner. This view is for comparison only. If you and your partner are both actively updating your Rank Order List, refresh this page often to reflect the latest updates. Lists cannot be edited or certified in the Compare ROL tab. Please select the My Rank Order List tab to edit or certify your Rank Order List.

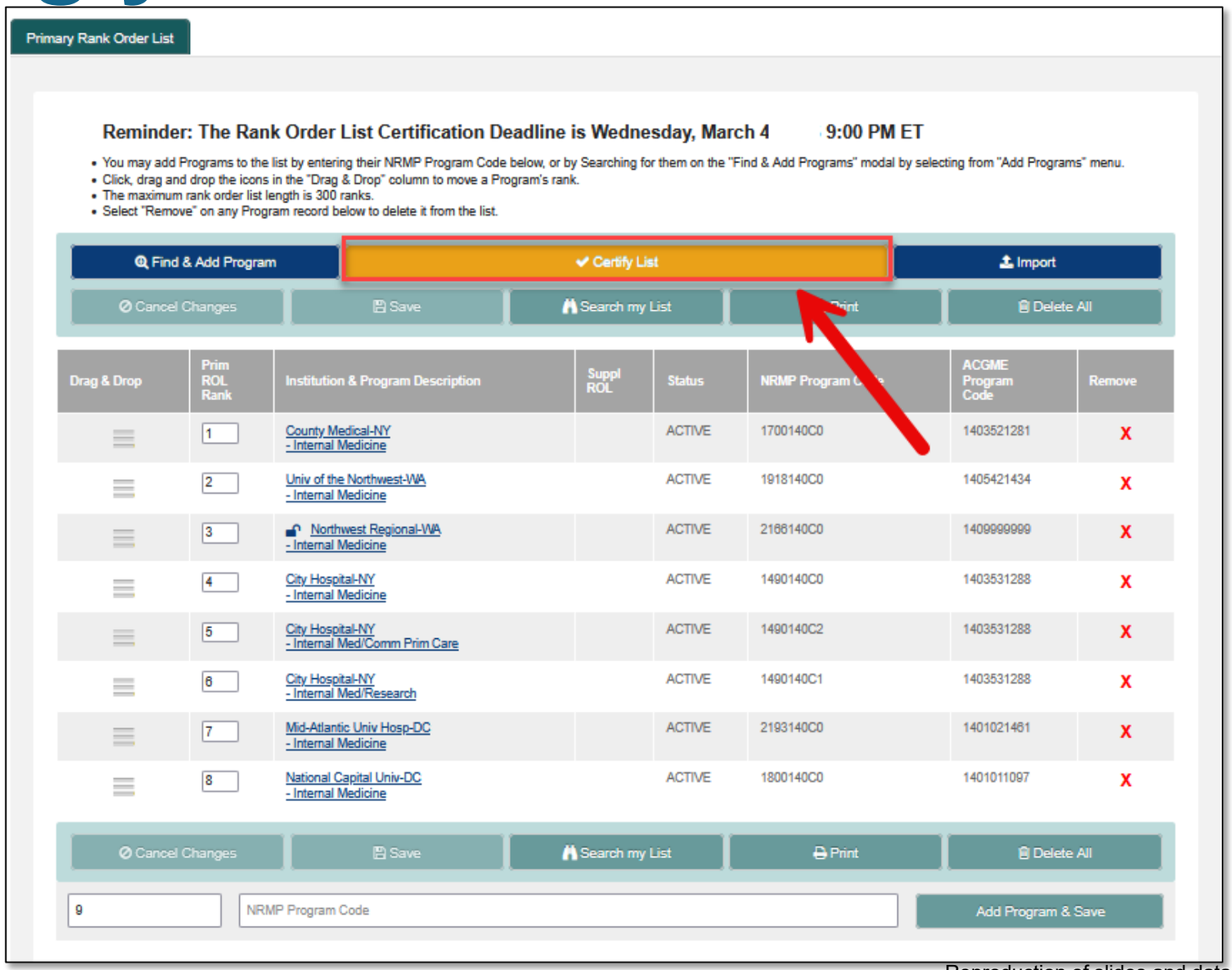
The matching algorithm takes into account only the Primary Rank Order List for a couple's paired ranks. Each partner's Primary Rank Order List must be the same length in order to be certified.

Print ROL Comparison

Dorothy Boyd - N0540114			Marshall Eriksen - N0549358		
Rank	Institution & Program Description	NRMP Program Code	Rank	Institution & Program Description	NRMP Program Code
1	Memphis Med Ctr-TN - Radiology-Diagnostic	1702420A0	1	Memphis Med Ctr-TN - Pediatrics	1702320C0
2	National Medical Center-Test-DC - Radiology-Diagnostic	1000420C0	2	Secondary Test Institution-DC - Pediatrics	1894320M0
3	Capitol University Hospital-DC - Radiology-Diagnostic	1802420A0	3	Secondary Test Institution-DC - Pediatrics	1894320M0
4	National Medical Center-Test-DC - Radiology-Diagnostic	1000420C0	4	National Medical Center-Test-DC - Pediatrics	1000320C0
5	Capitol University Hospital-DC - Radiology-Diagnostic	1802420A0	5	National Medical Center-Test-DC - Pediatrics	1000320C0
6	Roanoke Virginia Univ-VA - Radiology-Diagnostic	1748420A0	6	Roanoke Virginia Univ-VA - Pediatrics	1748320C0
7	Memphis Med Ctr-TN - Radiology-Diagnostic	1702420A0	7	West Tennessee Univ - TN - Pediatrics	2066320C0
8	West Tennessee Univ - TN - Radiology-Diagnostic	2066420C0	8	Memphis Med Ctr-TN - Pediatrics	1702320C0
9	Capitol University Hospital-DC - Radiology-Diagnostic	1802420A0	9	Capitol University Hospital-DC - Pediatrics	1802320C0
10	Northern VA Med School-VA - Radiology-Diagnostic	2980420A0	10	Secondary Test Institution-DC - Pediatrics	1894320M0
11	National Medical Center-Test-DC - Radiology-Diagnostic	1000420C0	11	Capitol University Hospital-DC - Pediatrics	1802320C0
12	West Tennessee Univ - TN - Radiology-Diagnostic	2066420A0	12	West Tennessee Univ - TN - Pediatrics	2066320C0
13	Roanoke Virginia Univ-VA - Radiology-Diagnostic	1748420A0	13	Roanoke Virginia Univ-VA - Pediatrics	1748320C0
14	Charlottesville University-VA - Radiology-Diagnostic	1737420A0	14	Roanoke Virginia Univ-VA - Pediatrics	1748320C0

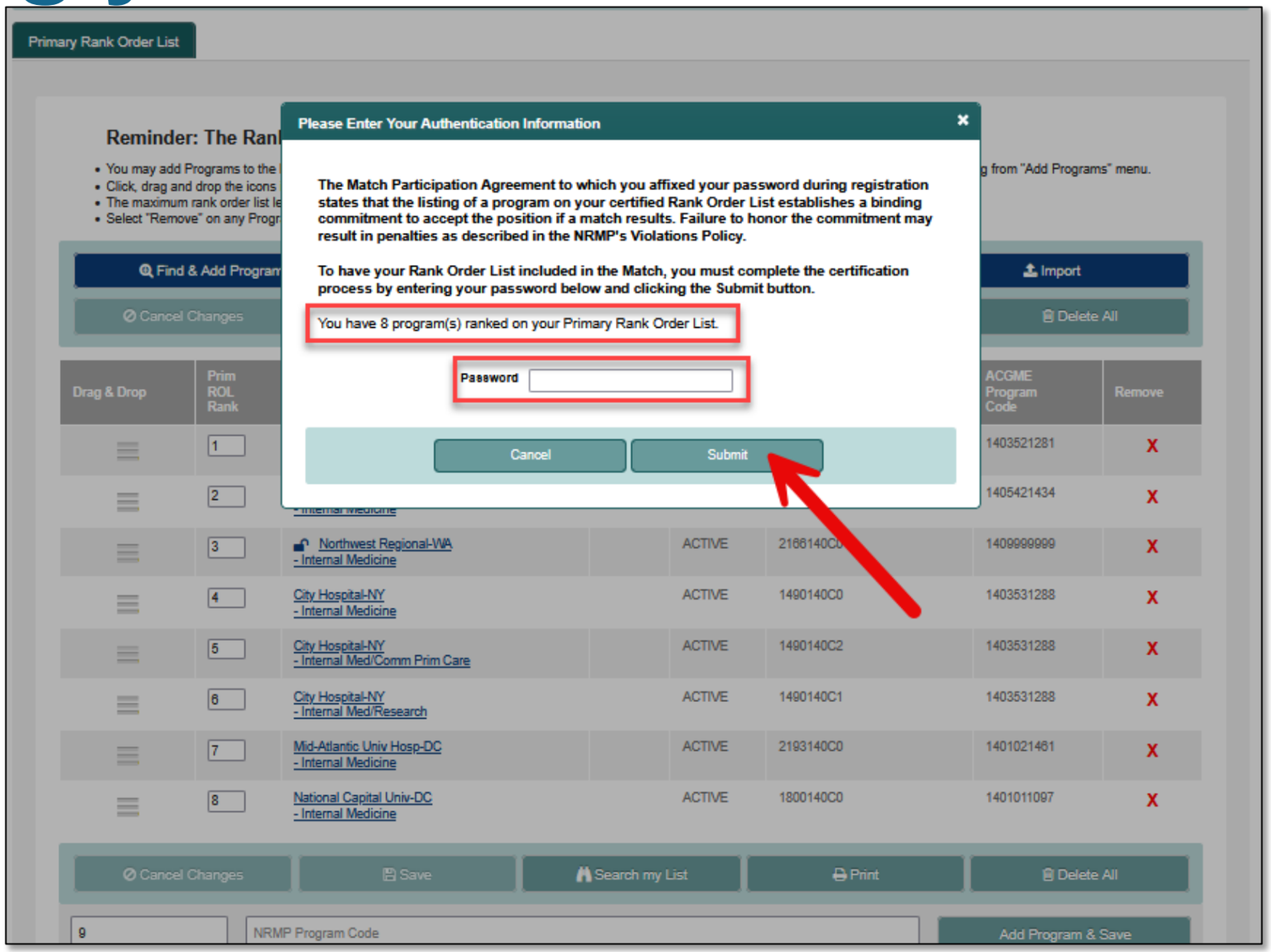
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Certifying your ROL



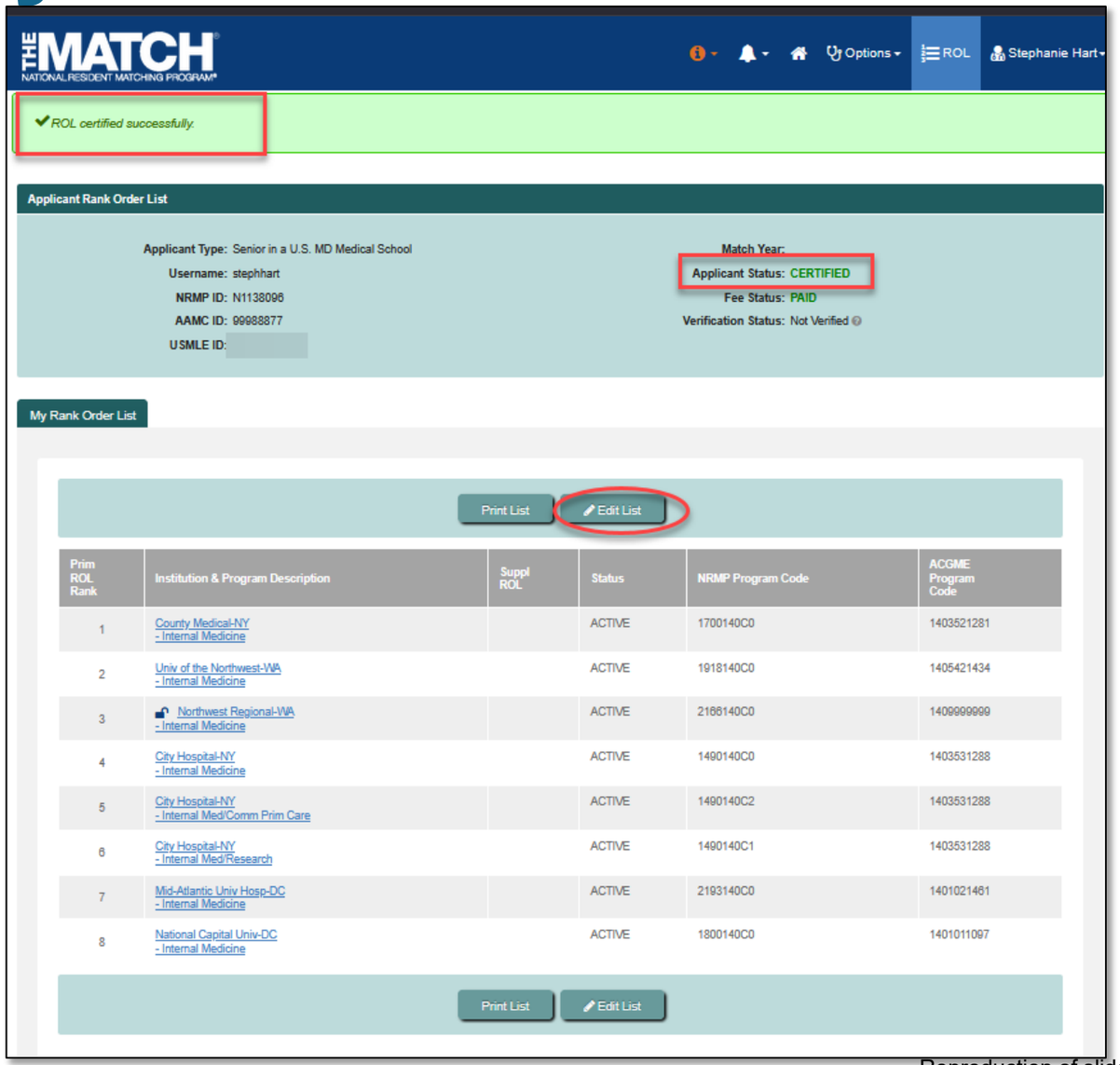
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Certifying your ROL



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

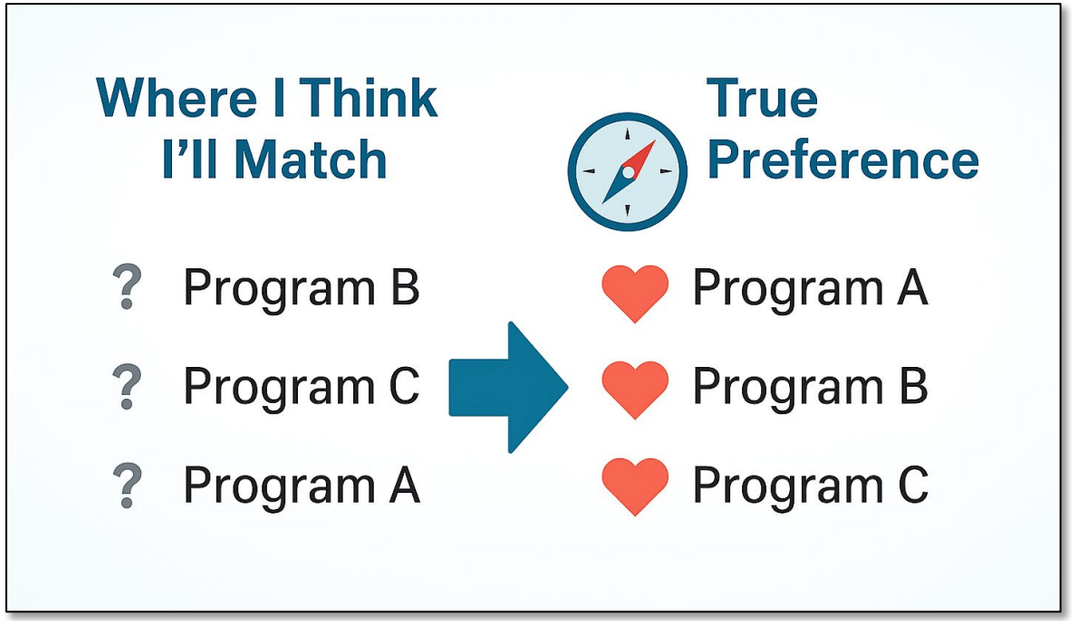
Certifying your ROL



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Ranking Guidelines

Rank programs based on your true preference and not where you think you may match



- ROLs must be saved after changes and only the most recent version of a ROL is saved
- Changes can be made to a ROL after it has been certified; however, if ROL is uncertified to be edited, the new version must be re-certified
- Don't wait until the last minute to enter your list
- **No changes after the deadline**. NRMP will not add, delete, move or in any way modify a ROL

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Ranking Fees

The standard registration fee of $70 includes the listing of up to 20 unique NRMP program codes on the primary rank order list **and** up to 20 unique NRMP codes on all supplemental rank order lists combined.

Extra Rank Fee: For each NRMP program code ranked over 20, extra rank fee of $30 per program code, up to the maximum of 300 ranks

Length of Rank Order List Fee: For rank order lists with 100 or more ranks:

100-150 ranks: $50

151-200 ranks: $100

201-250 ranks: $150

251-300 ranks: $200

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Voluntary Locking Functionality for Program Rank Order Lists (ROL)

Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Vascular Surgery Programs announce their intention to participate in the pilot

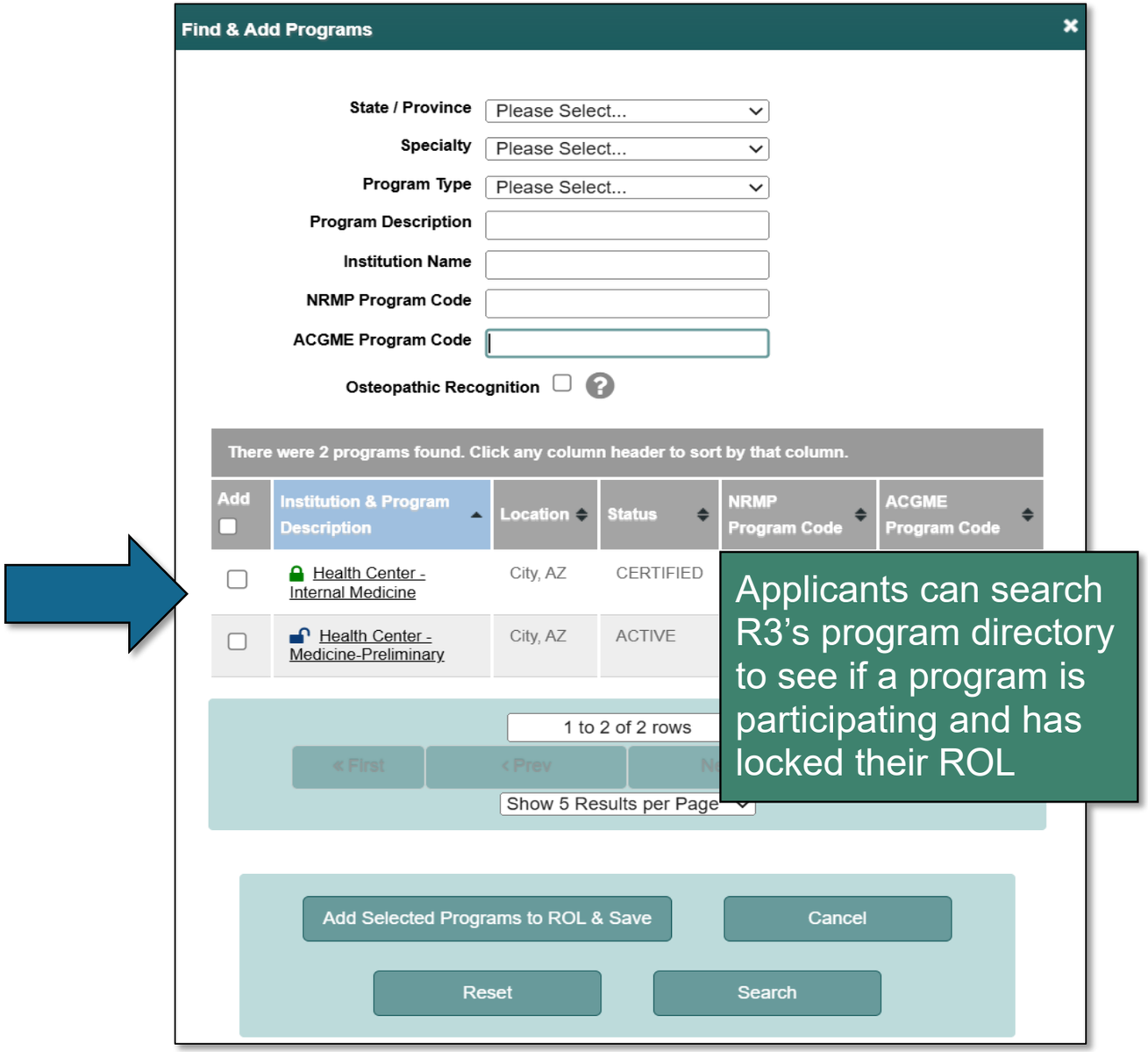
Lock implemented voluntarily by a program anytime after ranking opens and either before the first post-interview or by **Feb.9**

Program's participation and lock status will be indicated to applicants and medical schools in the NRMP's R3 system

ROL must be certified before being locked and once locked, the ROL cannot be changed. Locking is irreversible.

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

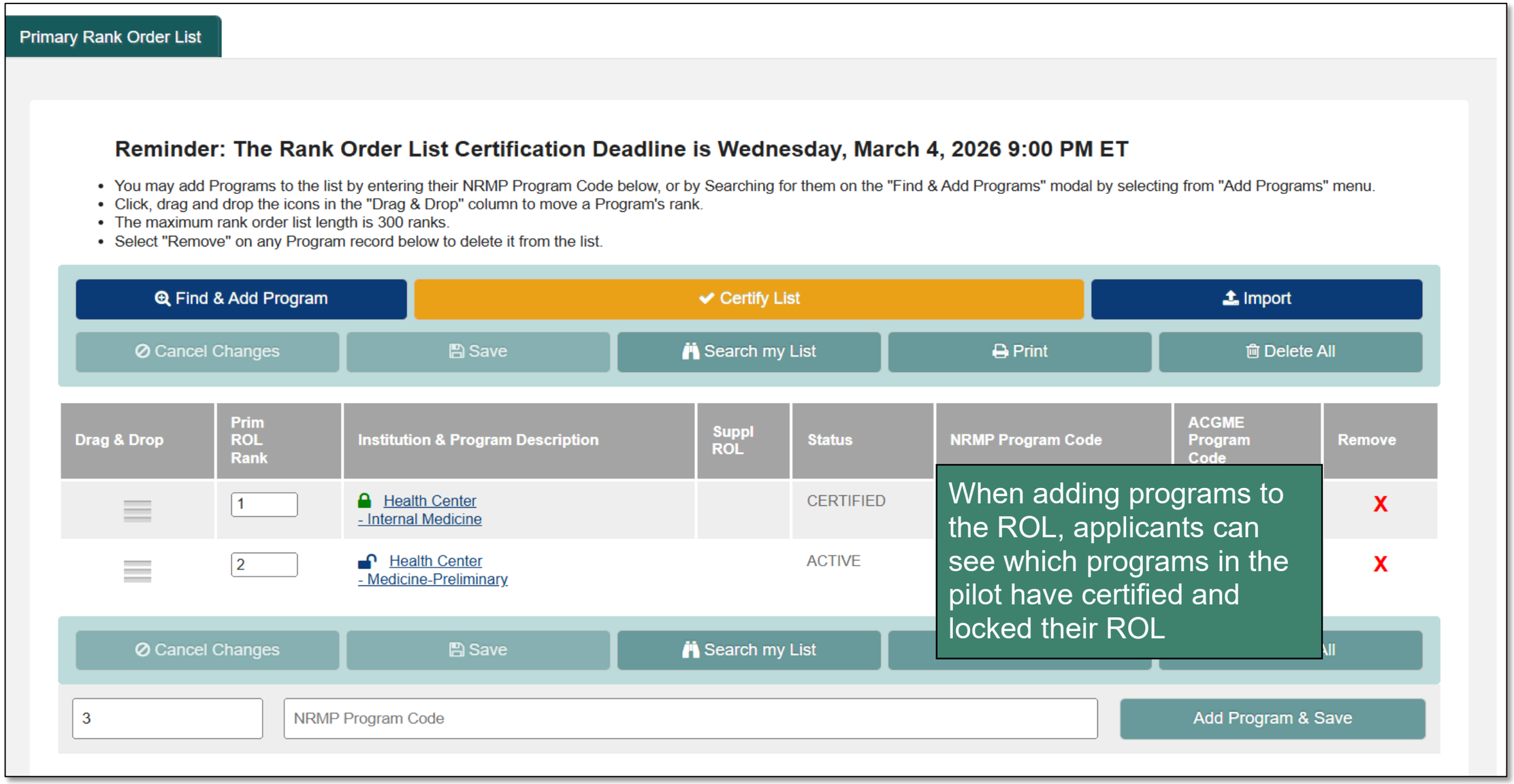
Applicant: Program Directory Search



Applicants can search R3's program directory to see if a program is participating and has locked their ROL

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Applicant: Certifying the ROL



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Check out additional resources and contact pilot@nrmp.org with questions

THE MATCH®
NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM®

NRMP's Voluntary Program Rank Order List (ROL) Lock

FAQs

This document addresses commonly asked questions regarding the NRMP's Voluntary Rank Order List (ROL) Lock for Programs, with the partnership of the Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Vascular Surgery specialties. Programs in those three specialties will have the opportunity to participate beginning with the 2026 Main Residency Match® cycle.

This pilot will make it possible for the NRMP, and participating programs, to explore the merits of a voluntary functionality that would allow programs to "lock" their rank order lists in the NRMP's Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system. If a program voluntarily locks its ROL prior to the certification deadline, this allows the program to establish a window when interviewees could visit—or not—the program without concern that the program might alter its ranking preferences afterward.

For more information regarding the background and rationale for this initiative, please see the report from the NRMP's Match Summit Meeting.

For information regarding the process and timeline, resources are available on the Voluntary ROL Lock webpage.

Click on any of the below to jump directly to the FAQs developed for that user type:

Applicants | Program Directors | Designated Institutional Officials (DIOs) | Medical School Officials

https://www.nrmp.org/voluntary-program-rank-order-list-lock-pilot/

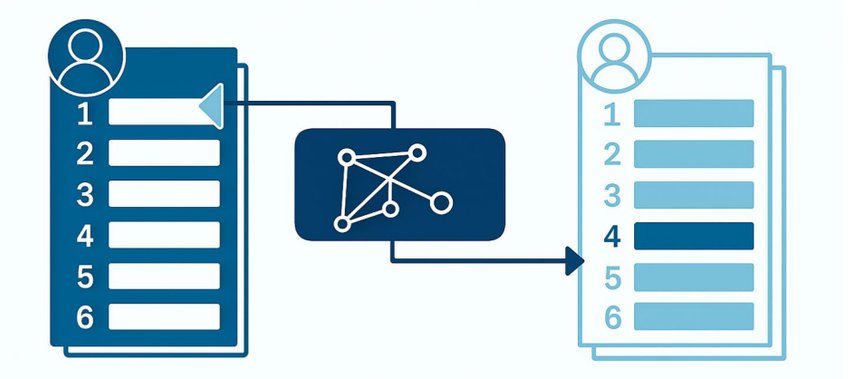
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

The Matching Algorithm

The algorithm is applicant proposing - the process begins with an attempt to match an applicant to the program ranked #1 by that applicant

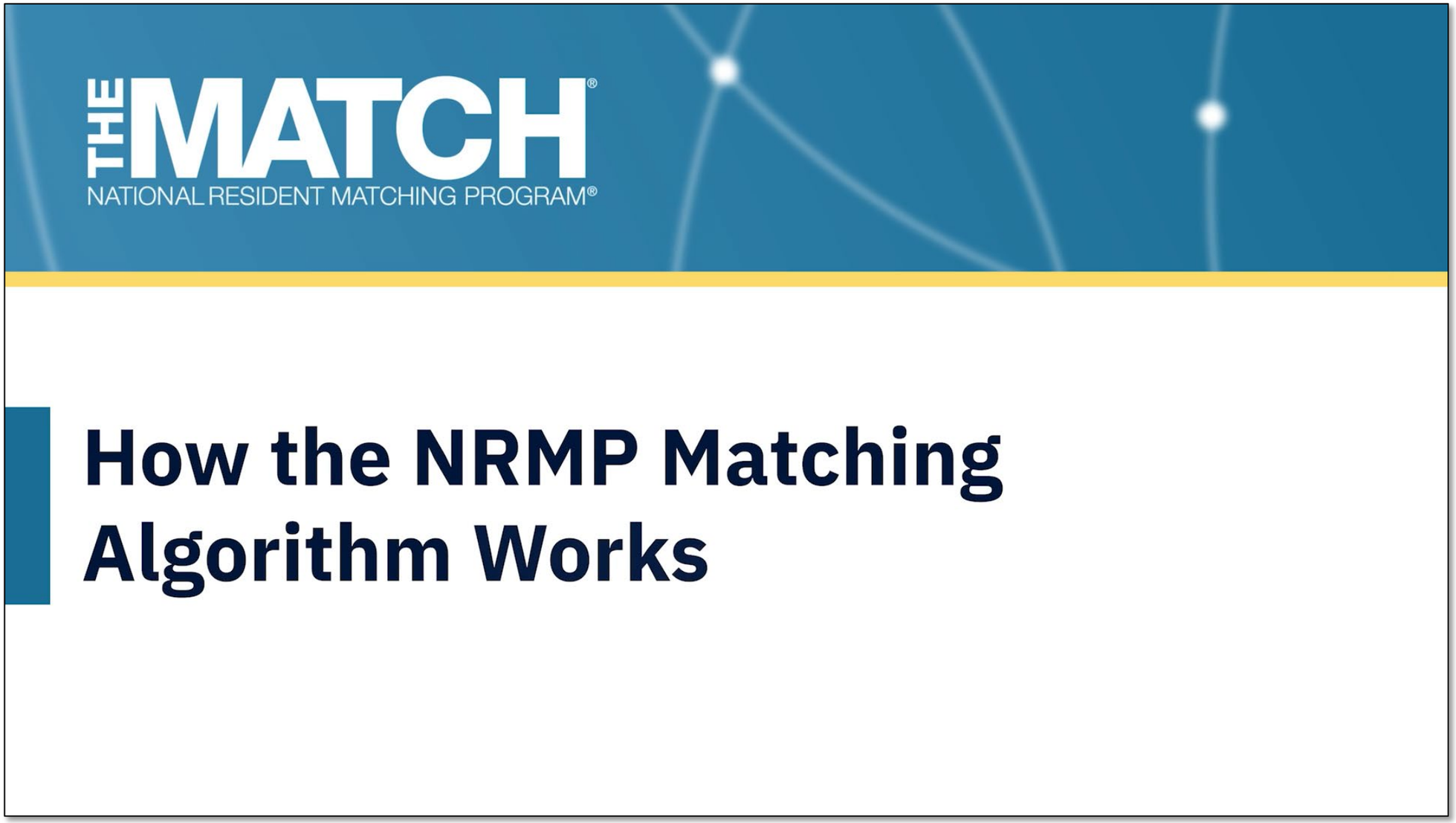
A tentative Match occurs if the program also ranked the applicant and:

- the program has unfilled positions **or**
- the program is filled **but** the applicant is ranked higher than another applicant already matched tentatively to the program



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

How the Algorithm Works

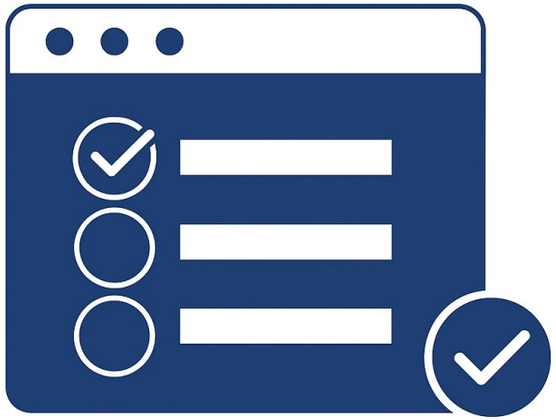


Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

The Matching Algorithm (cont.)

There is NO match if:

- the applicant did not rank the program, OR
- the program did not rank the applicant, OR
- the program and applicant ranked each other BUT the program filled with other applicants more preferred by the program



Matches are FINAL when:

- the algorithm completes its cycle through all applicant rank order lists and tentative matches are confirmed

Couples match when:

- the algorithm can place BOTH partners in their highest ranked pair of programs on the primary list

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Ranking Wisdom

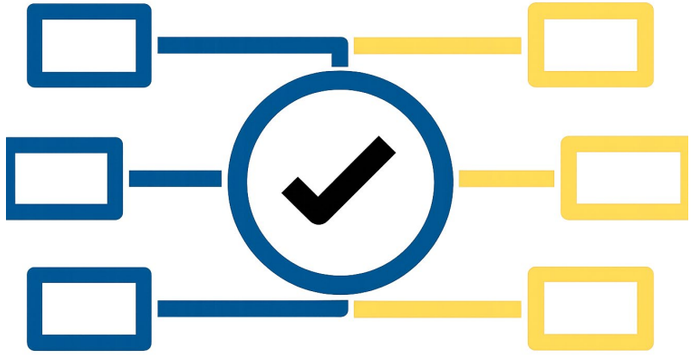
Check NRMP Program Code, program name, type, and info to ensure you are ranking the CORRECT program

Rank programs in the order of your true preference, based on the criteria most important to you

Rank only programs where you have interviewed and where you meet institution and program appointment requirements

Placing a program on your ROL creates a binding commitment if a match occurs

Do not wait until the last minute to edit or certify your list!



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Remember!

The Rank Order List Certification Deadline and the deadline for students and graduates to register for the Match and SOAP®:

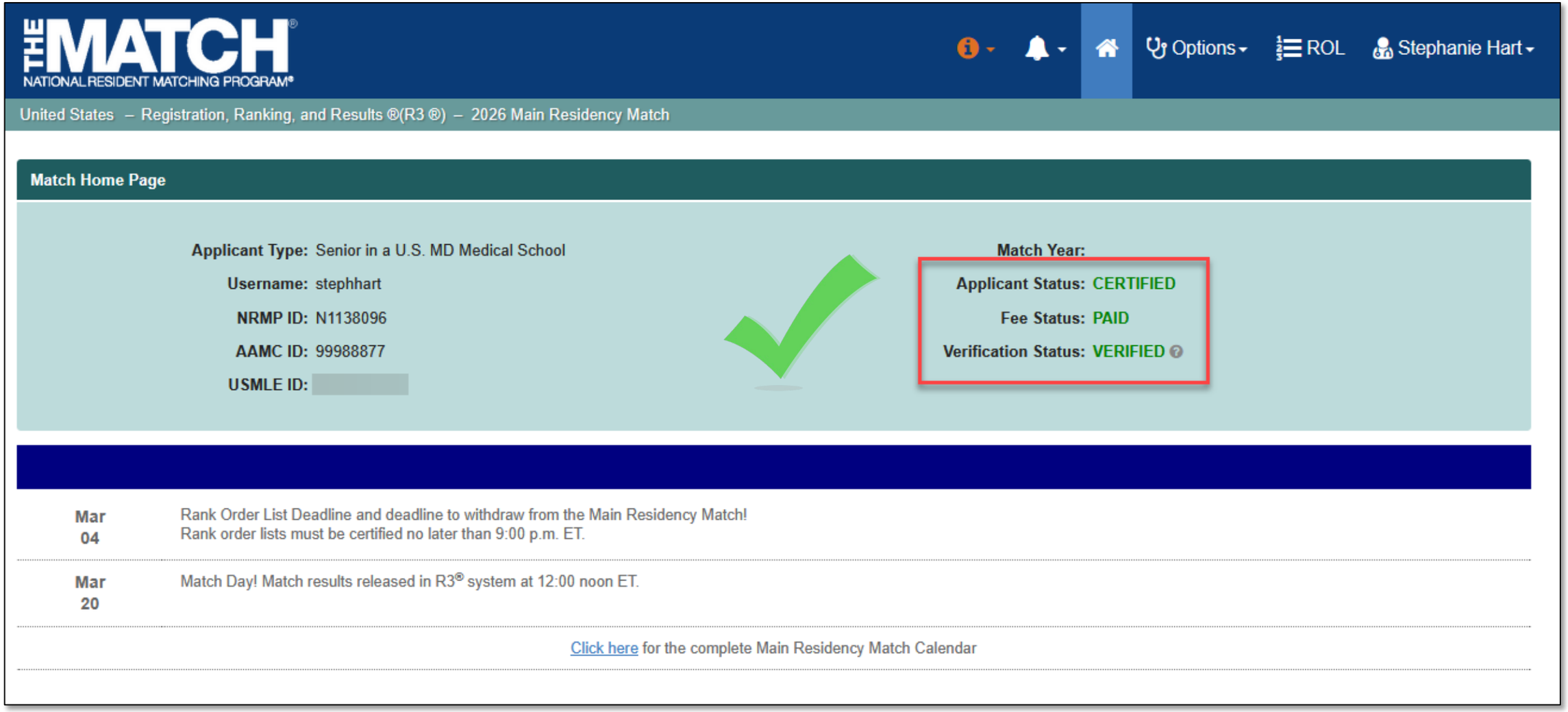
Wednesday, March 4 at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Applicants must:

- Complete the NRMP registration process and electronically sign the Match Participation Agreement
- Pay all Match fees
- Enter and certify their rank order list by the deadline
- Be verified as eligible to enter GME by July 1

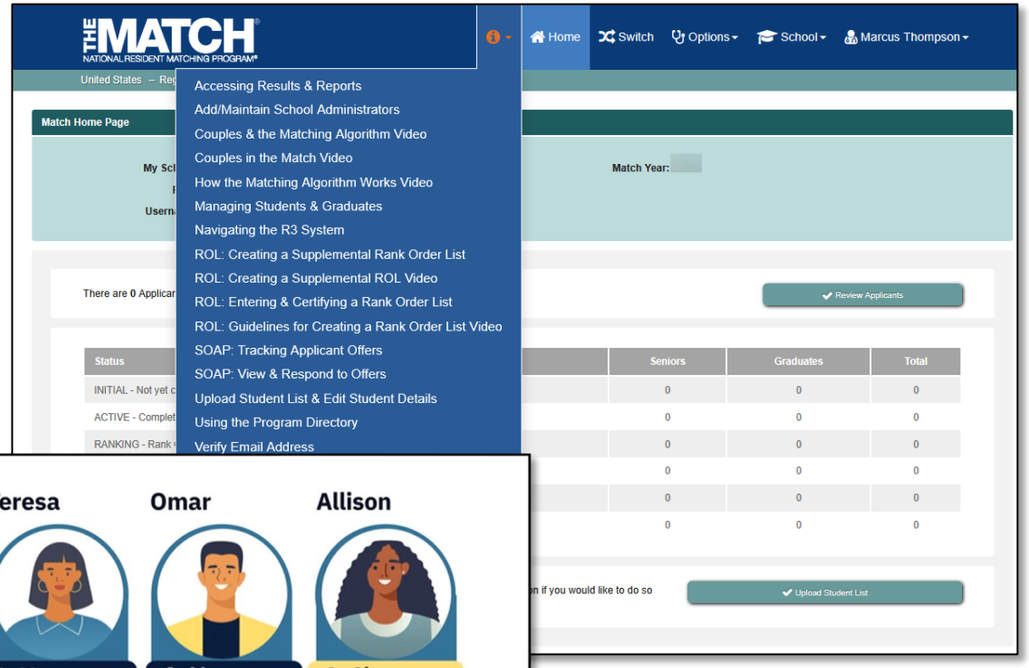
Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

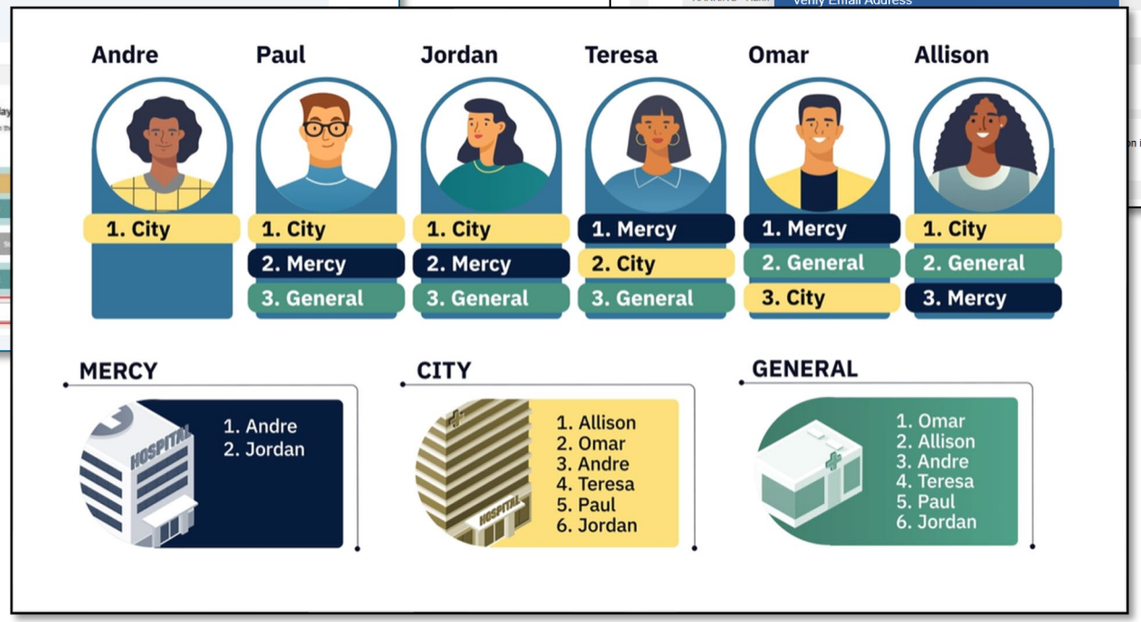
Am I All Set for the Match??



Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Support Guides & Video Resources





Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Data Resources

- *Charting Outcomes™: Characteristics of Applicants Who Match to Their Preferred Specialty*
- *Charting Outcomes™: Applicant Survey Results, 2025 Main Residency Match®*
- *Charting Outcomes™: Program Survey Results, 2024 Main Residency Match®*
- *Results and Data: 2025 Main Residency Match®*

Reproduction of slides and data prohibited without permission from the NRMP

Watch for the Joint Navigating Match Week and SOAP Webinar to be released in mid-February

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on X @TheNRMP

Follow us on LinkedIn

Questions?

Contact support@nrmp.org, 866-653-NRMP (6767), or the chat function on the R3 system

THE MATCH®
NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM®