



Policy Corner – May 2026

Waivers and Deferrals

As the start of the academic year approaches, a reminder that if for any reason an applicant or program cannot or will not honor the binding commitment, a waiver or one-year deferral must be obtained from the NRMP. A deferral is not a waiver; a deferral allows for a one-year delayed start to training and requires mutual agreement between the applicant and program.

The NRMP has begun receiving waiver requests related to visa eligibility. Prior to completing waivers or deferrals submissions to the NRMP, programs must engage with applicants to secure their visas. For specific guidance on visa eligibility and requirements, please reach out to ECFMG.

For more information and to review a copy of the Waiver/Deferral Policy, please visit the [NRMP policies](#) page on the NRMP website.

2027 Main Residency Match

With institutions and programs now able to register for the 2027 Main Residency Match, below are some key elements from the NRMP's Match Participation Agreements for programs, and institutions.

Section 6.1 Duty to Act in an Ethical and Professional Manner: Programs are required to conduct their affairs in an ethical and professionally responsible manner. This starts at the time of Match registration, extends throughout the application, interview, matching processes, SOAP, and to the 45th day following the start date of training in their appointment contract.

Section 6.2 Interview Period: Programs must extend interview offers that equal, not exceed, the total number of available interview slots, and they must provide applicants no less than 48 hours to accept or reject an invitation.

Section 6.3 Completeness, Timeliness, and Accuracy of Information: Programs must be transparent and provide complete information to applicants. Specifically, programs must provide applicants with all institutional and program policies related to eligibility; a copy of the appointment agreement; and identify the application service provider or process that will be used. Programs also need a process in place, such as an applicant

attestation, to be able to demonstrate when needed that applicants had access to eligibility information at the time of the interview.

Questions regarding the Match Waiver and Deferral Policy or other NRMP policies should be sent to policy@nrmp.org. We are here to help and look forward to supporting you throughout the 2027 Main Residency Match cycle.