



### Match Policy: What Fellowship Programs Need to Know

Before participating in the *Specialties Matching Service*®, each program director must agree to the terms and conditions of the Match Participation Agreement (MPA). Every program director should read the MPA thoroughly because **the entire Agreement is binding**; however, this document highlights some sections of the Agreement that may require a program director's specific attention.

- Between the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and Match Day, applicants and programs cannot apply for, discuss, interview for, or accept or offer any position that would run concurrent with positions offered in the **Specialties Matching Service**. (Section 4.2)
- Program directors must provide, in writing prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline, complete, timely, and accurate information to applicants, including a copy of the contract the applicant would be expected to sign and all institutional policies regarding eligibility for appointment to a position. (Section 4.6)
- A program that terminates a resident within 45 days of the start date specified in the appointment contract shall be presumed to have breached this Agreement unless evidence is submitted through the NRMP waiver process sufficient to show that the program entered into the contract in good faith and the NRMP determines the program has a reasonable basis to be released from the binding commitment to the applicant. (Section 5.1)
- Program staff cannot discuss, interview for, or offer a position to any applicant who has a binding commitment to a concurrent year position in another program. Programs must use the Applicant Match History in the **R3** system to determine the applicant's eligibility for appointment prior to offering the applicant an interview. (Section 5.2)
- Both applicants and programs may express their interest in each other; however, they shall not solicit verbal or written statements implying a commitment. Applicants shall at all times be free to keep confidential ranking preferences and the names, specialties, geographic locations, or other identifying information about programs to which they have or may apply. (Section 6.2)
- NRMP will certify an existing program rank order list in the Registration, Ranking, and Results (**R3**) system after the Rank Order List Certification Deadline provided a written request and consent is received by NRMP within 48 hours after the deadline. Only the rank order list displayed in the **R3** system at the time of the deadline will be certified, and NRMP will not create or modify a rank order list at any time for any reason. (Section 5.3)
- Programs are prohibited from offering a position, regardless of start date, to any applicant who is ineligible as the result of a confirmed violation or a denied waiver. (Section 7.2.2)

### FOR FELLOWSHIP SPECIALTIES THAT HAVE VOLUNTARILY IMPLEMENTED THE ALL IN POLICY:

- If a position becomes vacant after the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and the program is participating in a **Specialties Matching Service** Match that has implemented the All In Policy, the position may be filled outside the Match at any time between 12:00 p.m. eastern time on Match Day and prior to the day registration opens for the next Match in which the program participates. (Section 3.4)

**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 sanctions**, including but not limited to being identified as a Match violator in the web-based *Registration, Ranking, and Results*® (**R3**) system and notification of the violation to the ACGME and the appropriate program director association.