



Match Policy: What Applicants Need to Know

Before participating in the **Main Residency Match**, each applicant must agree to the terms and conditions of the [Match Participation Agreement \(MPA\) for Applicants and Programs](#). Every applicant should read the MPA thoroughly because **the entire Agreement is binding**; however, this document highlights sections of the Agreement that are especially relevant to applicants.

- ✓ **NEW** Prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline, the NRMP will verify that the applicant has completed the necessary examination requirements for ECFMG certification; however, it is the responsibility of ECFMG to determine whether the applicant is granted ECFMG certification. (Sections 2.3)
- ✓ **NEW** Sponsored applicants (U.S. allopathic seniors) who obtain positions in U.S. military graduate medical education programs are obligated to notify their medical schools. Applicants with military positions shall be withdrawn from the Match by their medical schools prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. Such applicants will be ineligible to participate in **SOAP** for concurrent year NRMP positions. (Section 2.4.1)
- ✓ **NEW** Independent applicants who obtain positions in U.S. military graduate medical education programs shall withdraw from the **Main Residency Match** prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. Such applicants will be ineligible to participate in **SOAP** for concurrent year NRMP positions. (Section 2.4.2)
- ✓ **NEW** Applicants who obtain a concurrent year position during the AOA Scramble shall withdraw themselves from the **Main Residency Match** prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. (Section 2.4.3)
- ✓ **UPDATED** All applicants are at all times responsible for the completeness, timeliness, and accuracy of the information they provide to programs and the NRMP during the application, interview, and matching processes for the period beginning with submission of an electronically signed Match Participation Agreement (including the ERAS application) until the 45th day following the start date of the date specified in the appointment contract. Information that is false, misleading, incomplete, or plagiarized from another source, including information submitted in the course of waiver requests, violation investigations, and arbitration proceedings, is grounds for a violation investigation. This also includes information that may reasonably be considered pertinent to a program's decision whether to rank an applicant. Such information includes, but is not limited to, omissions that relate to an applicant's ability to satisfy program requirements or standards and circumstances that may reasonably be expected to affect adversely the applicant's licensure status, visa status, or ability to start the training program. 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 4.5)
- ✓ Applicants who match to a PGY-1 or PGY-2 position through the American Osteopathic Association Match and the Canadian Resident Matching Service will be ineligible to match to or participate in **SOAP** for a concurrent year NRMP position. (Section 2.4.2)

- ✓ Applicants shall not apply for, discuss, interview for, or accept a position through any other national matching plan or by agreement outside the **Main Residency Match** after the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. (Section 2.4.4)
- ✓ Applicants may request a waiver of a match commitment based on unanticipated serious and extreme hardship. Waivers based on change of specialty must be requested by December 15 prior to the start of training. (Section 2.5)
- ✓ All Match participants are prohibited from sharing **any** information from or maintained in the **R3** system, including but not limited to the *List of Unfilled Programs* and the *Regional Match Statistics by Specialty*, with any individual not registered for the **Match**. All participants 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 but not limited to the *List of Unfilled Programs* and the *Regional Match Statistics by Specialty*. URLs that link to information from the **R3** system or PDFs that have been created, copied, or downloaded from the **R3** system shall not be made public or redistributed in any form even if the information already is in the public domain. (Section 4.4)
- ✓ Absent a waiver from the NRMP, an applicant who gives notice of resignation, resigns, or vacates a position within 45 days of the start date specified in the relevant appointment contract shall be presumed to have breached the Match Participation Agreement. A program that terminates a resident within 45 days of the start date specified in the appointment contract absent a waiver from the NRMP shall be presumed to have breached the Agreement (Section 5.1)
- ✓ Through 11:00 a.m. eastern time on Thursday of Match Week, when **SOAP** concludes, **SOAP**-eligible candidates can apply **only** to unfilled Match-participating programs that are participating in **SOAP** and **only** through ERAS. **SOAP**-ineligible applicants cannot contact or apply to **any** Match-participating program, regardless of the program's **SOAP** participation status, until 11:00 a.m. eastern time on Thursday of Match Week. (Section 7.1)
- ✓ Applicants who violate **Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP)** policies may be barred for one year from participating in **SOAP**. Repeat violators of **SOAP** policies may be barred from the Match. (Section 8.2.1)

Failure to comply with all the terms and conditions of the Match Participation Agreement, whether intentionally or not, may result in an investigation and the imposition of penalties including but not limited to being barred from accepting or starting a position in any program sponsored by a Match-participating institution, being barred from participating in future NRMP Matches, and being identified as a Match violator in the *Registration, Ranking, and Results*[®] (**R3**[®]) system.