



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.

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- ✓ Sponsored applicants who are ineligible to enter graduate medical education on July 1 in the year of the Match must be withdrawn from the Match. Sponsored applicants withdrawn from the Match due to ineligibility may accept a position outside the Match no earlier than 12:00 p.m. eastern time on Wednesday of Match Week as long as training will begin on or after July 1 and before February 1 in the year immediately following the Match. (Section 2.4.1)
- ✓ An applicant whose waiver request is denied and who does not accept the matched position will be investigated for breach of the Agreement. If an applicant applies for, discusses, interviews for, or accepts a concurrent year position in another program prior to receiving a waiver from the NRMP, the applicant will be subject to an investigation and the levying of sanctions. (Section 2.5.2)
- ✓ Applicants are free to keep confidential their ranking preferences and the names, specialties, geographic locations, or other identifying information about programs to which they have or may apply. (Section 6.0)
- ✓ Between the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and 3:00 p.m. eastern time on Monday of Match Week, applicants cannot apply for, discuss, interview for, or accept any position that would run concurrent with positions offered in the *Main Residency Match*. (Section 4.2)
- ✓ All applicants are prohibited from sharing **any** information from or maintained in the *R3* system with any individual not registered for the *Main Residency Match*, including distributing or posting any Match Week information to any website or non-NRMP-related matching service. URLs and PDFs that link to information from the *R3* system cannot be distributed, even if the information already is in the public domain. (Section 4.4)
- ✓ Applicants are responsible for providing complete, timely, and accurate information to programs during the application, interview, and matching processes. Information that is false, misleading, incomplete, or plagiarized from another source is grounds for a violation investigation. (Section 4.5)
- ✓ The binding match commitment shall be deemed honored if the applicant remains in the training program through the first 45 days after the start date specified in the appointment contract. An applicant who gives notice of resignation, resigns, or vacates a position within 45 days of the start date specified in the contract shall be presumed to have breached the Agreement unless a waiver has been granted by the NRMP. (Section 5.1)
- ✓ Through 11:00 a.m. eastern time on Thursday of Match Week, a *SOAP*-eligible applicant can apply **only** to unfilled Match-participating programs that are participating in *SOAP* and **only** through ERAS. A *SOAP*-ineligible applicant cannot contact or apply to **any** Match-participating programs, regardless of the program's *SOAP* participation status, until 11:00 a.m. eastern time on Thursday of Match Week. (Section 7.1)
- ✓ Applicants with confirmed violations of NRMP policy may be barred for one year from accepting a position, regardless of start date, in any program sponsored by a Match-participating institution, and/or starting a new position or new training year in any program sponsored by a Match-participating institution if training would begin within one year from the date of issuance of the Final Report. Applicants who violate Match Week *Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP)* communications policies may be barred for one year from participating in *SOAP*.

(Section 8.2.1)

- ✓ Applicants authorize their medical schools, the National Board of Medical Examiners, and/or the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners to release, verify, and transmit to NRMP certain test scores utilized in NRMP research studies. Applicants can grant or refuse consent to permit test scores to be used by NRMP. (Section 17.0)
- ✓ An applicant who is the subject of a violation investigation will be presumed to have engaged in a wrongful act if there is no response to an inquiry from the NRMP after three attempts at contact have been made. (Viol Policy, Sect C)

Failure to comply with all terms of the Match Participation Agreement, whether intentionally or not, may result in an investigation and the imposition of sanctions, including but not limited to being barred from accepting or starting a position in any program at a Match-participating institution, being barred from future NRMP Matches, and being identified as a Match violator in the **R3** system.