

# Introduction to the Membership Recruitment Acceptance Binding Agreement

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The members of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) want every potential new member (PNM) to be informed about her options for joining a sorority or women's fraternity. At the completion of the formal recruitment period, all women are given the option to sign a membership recruitment acceptance binding agreement (MRABA). In order to receive a bid from a sorority on campus, the MRABA must be signed. The MRABA form is used on every campus that has a College Panhellenic. All PNMs are given instruction by a member of the fraternity and sorority life staff and/or the fraternity/sorority advisor about the MRABA form and what they are agreeing to abide by. As an assistant for the MRABA signing process, it's important that you understand all points included in the form.

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The MRABA consists of nine sections. The first six sections are initialed by the PNM as acknowledgement that she has read and understands each point. The following is an explanation of these six sections:

1. I am willing to accept an invitation to membership from any sorority or women's fraternity that I list on this agreement. **PNMs should only list the chapters they are willing to join.**
2. I may limit my choices to just one OR list any sorority or women's fraternity whose preference-round (last) event I attended, and from which I am willing to accept membership. I realize that by not listing the maximum number of events I attended, I may be limiting my potential to join any other NPC group during primary recruitment should I not be placed with my choice(s). **A PNM can only rank chapters whose final (preference) events she attended (if she went to A and B, C isn't an option). She doesn't have to rank all the chapters she attended, but we encourage her to maximize her options, because it gives her a better chance of being matched to a group.**
3. Once I submit this agreement to the College Panhellenic Association, I cannot change the order of my preferences or add or delete a preference. **Once the form is signed and submitted, selections and the order of the chapters listed cannot be altered.**
4. If I do not receive an invitation to membership from a group listed, I am eligible for continuous open bidding. **If a PNM doesn't receive a bid from a group listed on her MRABA, she can join any chapter through continuous open bidding (COB) or informal recruitment. This is only available to groups that have open spots in their chapter.**
5. I have the option of not submitting an agreement at this time. **A PNM does not have to submit an MRABA, which results in her being removed from the recruitment process**
6. Once I submit this agreement, I am bound by the National Panhellenic Conference one-calendar-year rule. This rule states that if through the primary membership recruitment process, I receive a bid and decline it, then I am ineligible to be pledged to another NPC fraternity on the same campus until the beginning of the next primary membership recruitment period. **If a PNM receives a bid from a group she lists and then later chooses not to be pledged or initiated,**

**she cannot join another NPC group on that campus until the next primary membership recruitment period. If she is not initiated and transfers schools, she can participate in recruitment at the first opportunity on the new campus.**

The PNM must then sign and date the form as a final acceptance of the points she initialed. The signature line states, **“By signing this form I am agreeing to accept a bid from any of the sororities or women’s fraternities listed below and if offered, I am bound to that bid until the beginning of the next primary membership recruitment period.”**

The next section of the MRABA is the listing of the sororities or women’s fraternities that the PNM has chosen. She may list sororities or women’s fraternities that she is willing to accept a bid from, whose preference event she attended. Again, once she submits the form the order cannot be altered. The form states, **“I agree to the terms stated above, and I am willing to accept an invitation to membership from any of the following sororities or women’s fraternities whose preference event I attended (listed in order of preference).”**

Last, the PNM must sign and date the form again acknowledging the order of her preferences.

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Beyond the simple signing of the MRABA, there are other things to consider as you assist with processing the forms.

- Do not wear anything to indicate any organizational affiliation — no logo, insignia, badge, colors, etc.
  - Only speak panhellenically. You will probably be asked whether you are a greek member and will then probably ask which one. The proper response is that you’re volunteering to help the Panhellenic and not representing any particular group.
  - There should be minimal conversation (if any) with the PNM when she is making her selections. No coaching or directing of questions should be made to help her make a decision. Conversation should be reserved to procedural questions/answers only.
  - If questions should arise that you are unable to answer, the recruitment team will be available for assistance.
  - MRABAs are directly submitted electronically. It is critical that when a PNM indicates she has completed her selections that you indicate to her that once the MRABA is submitted, changes cannot be made to her selections or the order of her preferences.
  - A PNM might complete her MRABA quickly; others will take time to deliberate their decisions.
  - Houston Panhellenic will already have discussed the recruitment process and MRABA signing throughout recruitment to prepare/educate the PNM for this step of the process, but you will be required to understand the terms and conditions should a question arise.
  - By unanimous resolution of the member groups at the 2011 NPC annual meeting, recruitment counselors should not be present with the PNM at the time the MRABA is being signed. Should a PNM request to speak to her recruitment counselor, notify the recruitment team and they will escort her to her counselor.
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