Katy, you are well aware of what just occurred with the sanctioning of the EGRA Calvin Meet us in May ABC meet. This was with two certified AOs submitting documents. To now say the Meet Scheduling Committee, without knowing who they are or could potentially be in the future, will suddenly take on reviewing Packets and Meet Manager files is extremely problematic. In fact at least one member of this committee I have had major issues with their files in the past. This person even stated that they don't see the need to come to any more training because they made the same mistakes every year.  
  
The AOs in conjunction with the Meet Referee, as long as they do their jobs, are the people specifically trained to do this job. To state this is only a "best practice" since there is no language regarding this in Rules and Procedures is also a concern. The Officials Chair, after attending numerous National Committee meetings, discussed this with the Officials Committee and it was decided that this procedure is how they want to move forward.   
  
I served on the Officials Committee for over seven years and even though I have been off of this committee for three plus years the LSC has been consistent in its policy of this committee. The Officials Committee falls under the Program Operations division but never in the ten plus years since I first became a member of that committee has the Vice Chair or the Board interjected themselves into the way the Officials Committee works.  
  
To state that at the Sectional meet there are different opinions on the AO position is the same as saying that there are different opinions on coaching. The National Officials Committee has decided that this position is vital to the proper running of the meet. To ask either the AO or the Meet Referee to just walk in the first day of the meet and now they are in charge without seeing what they are expected to work with unreasonable. To ignore the best practice of going through the Meet Referee the Michigan Swimming Office will be bogged down because the files coming in will be worse.  
  
The problem isn't the template. The problem is that too many untrained people are are filling the template and where there are problems with the Meet Manager files it is usually because people other than the AO are writing them and the Meet Referee is not doing their job in reviewing them prior to the meet. In the years before I took this position and while serving as the Meet Referee at a meet nothing was submitted without my review first. I can't speak for other referees but to not do that is to only go into a meet blind and have no clue as to what will go wrong during your meet.  
  
We have found multiple issues with things that are and are not in our Rules and Procedures but were either passed or not passed by our House of Delegates