

**TOP
5
CONSIDERATIONS**
for CIOs

What should CIOs be seeing from Scrum Masters?

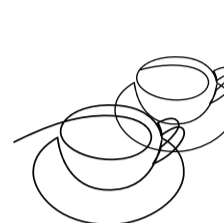
Team Productivity and Efficiency

Scrums are for shoulder-to-shoulder,
gaining the most

But who's in the scrum
matters more than the boast

By tracking metrics such as sprint velocity, burndown charts, and team throughput, CIOs can assess the effectiveness of agile practices and identify areas for improvement in team performance and delivery.

Bottom line: Scrum.org points out that common failure patterns include difficulties in sustaining time-boxed activities, the perception of the *scrum master* role as an overhead, and a lack of buy-in from senior management. These issues contribute to the inefficacy of *scrum masters* in delivering successful project outcomes.



Adherence to Agile Principles and Practices

Braveheart's cry for freedom
*wasn't the easy route.
Wins come from grit,
with no room for doubt.*

Freedom's call, not the easy out.
*Valor and grit
win the bout!*

This includes facilitating effective sprint planning, daily stand-ups, sprint reviews and retrospectives, as well as promoting collaboration, transparency and self-organisation among team members.

Bottom line: *Scrum* doesn't mean the absence of structure or rules. Instead, it implies working within a framework that allows for flexibility, creativity, and empowerment within set boundaries.



Removal of Impediments and Roadblocks

Drill Sergeant: "Gump!"
What is your sole purpose in this army?"

"To do whatever you tell me, Drill Sergeant!"

CIOs should expect *scrum masters* to proactively identify and remove impediments and roadblocks that hinder team progress and productivity. *Scrum masters* should act as servant leaders, advocating for the needs of their teams and facilitating timely resolution of issues to ensure smooth and uninterrupted delivery of value.

Bottom line: At a hint of trouble, your *scrum master* should be in the trenches with the team, facilitating solutions and clearing roadblocks. They are guides, not commanders. Ken Schwaber (Scrum co-creator) emphasises: a *scrum master* helps everyone understand *scrum* theory, practices, rules and values. This means being present and proactive in addressing issues as they arise.



After 30+ years of experience...

Effective *scrum masters* enable teams to achieve their potential by removing obstacles, fostering collaboration, and ensuring continuous improvement. As Peter Drucker wisely said, "Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things."

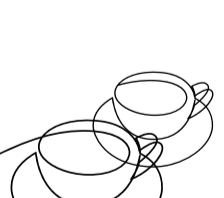
Continuous Improvement and Learning

We've got this learning feeling,
*whoa-oh,
that learning feeling*

We've got this learning feeling
*now the work is done, done, done,
whoa-oh-oh-oh*

Scrum masters should facilitate regular retrospectives to reflect on performance, identify lessons learned and apply improvements to enhance team processes, collaboration and delivery effectiveness.

Bottom line: Never stop learning, or you might die wondering. Statistics show that 81% of *scrum* teams hold retrospectives after each sprint, so that continuous improvement is a consistent focus. This practice sees a 20-30% improvement in team performance and productivity (Workamajig).



Stakeholder Engagement & Communication

Pay no mind to what they say,
it doesn't matter anyway

Hey, hey, hey our lips are sealed
No, wait!

Scrum masters should act as liaisons between the development team and stakeholders, providing regular updates, gathering feedback and facilitating transparent communication to ensure alignment and satisfaction with project outcomes

Bottom line: Scrum.org highlights that 70% of agile projects fail due to poor communication and lack of stakeholder involvement: miss the message and brace for impact.



Like to delve into, dissect or draw on my experience over a coffee —let's set up a time...

