Roles and Responsibilities in Lean Agile

Lean Agile thrives on collaboration, transparency, and streamlined processes. Distinct roles with clear responsibilities are essential for success. This presentation outlines key roles and their unique contributions.

by Kimberly Wiethoff

Product Owner: The Value Champion

Define and Prioritize Backlog

Ensure team works on high-priority tasks aligned with business goals.

Customer Advocacy

Represent customer perspective and communicate value of deliverables.

Stakeholder Collaboration

Gather requirements, align priorities, and communicate progress.

Define Success Criteria

Set acceptance criteria and validate deliverables against them.

Project Manager: The Coordinator

Scope Management

Align projects with organizational goals and define deliverables clearly.

Risk Management

Identify potential risks and develop mitigation strategies.

Resource Coordination

Ensure teams have necessary resources and support.

Reporting

Provide stakeholders with updates on progress, budgets, and risks.

Scrum Master: The Agile Coach

1 Facilitate Scrum Ceremonies

Organize daily stand-ups, sprint planning, reviews, and retrospectives.

2 Remove Impediments

Identify and eliminate roadblocks hindering team progress.

3 Coach and Mentor

Educate on Agile principles, Lean practices, and continuous improvement.

4 Protect the Team

Shield from external distractions to maintain focus on sprint goals.

Program Manager: The Strategic Overseer

1

Portfolio Management

Prioritize initiatives and allocate resources across projects.

2

Alignment with Business Goals

Ensure teams contribute to strategic objectives.

3

Dependency Management

Identify and manage dependencies across teams and projects.

4

Reporting and Governance

Provide leadership with high-level updates and risk assessments.

Release Train Engineer: The SAFe Conductor

1	2	3	4

Facilitate PI Planning

Organize and coordinate Program Increment planning sessions.

Track Progress

Monitor ART performance, ensuring milestones and objectives are met.

Manage Risks

Identify risks across the ART and facilitate mitigation strategies.

Drive Improvement

Lead ART-level retrospectives to identify improvement opportunities.

Team Members: The Value Creators

Deliver Commitments

Complete assigned tasks and user stories within sprint timelines.

Ensure Quality

Meet definition of done and acceptance criteria for deliverables.

Continuous Learning

Stay updated on best practices, tools, and technologies.

Collaborate

Work closely with team members, Product Owners, and Scrum Masters.

Lean Agile Coach: The Transformation Guide

Training and Mentoring

Educate teams and leaders on Lean and Agile principles.

Change Management

Facilitate cultural and process changes for Lean Agile mindset.

Metrics and Insights

Use data to measure progress and identify improvement areas.

Scaling Agile
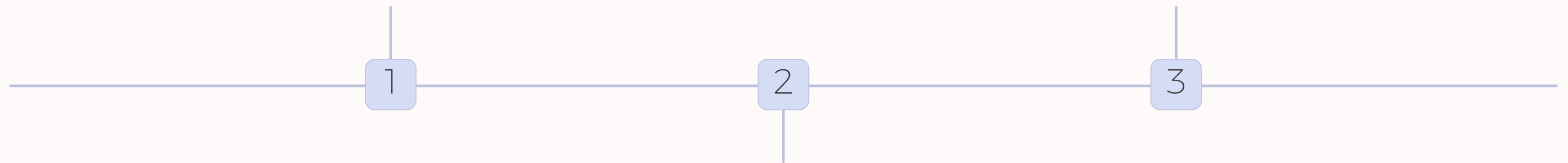
Help organizations scale Agile practices effectively.

Key Role Differences

Product Owner vs. Scrum Master

PO focuses on **what** the team works on. Scrum Master focuses on **how** the team works.
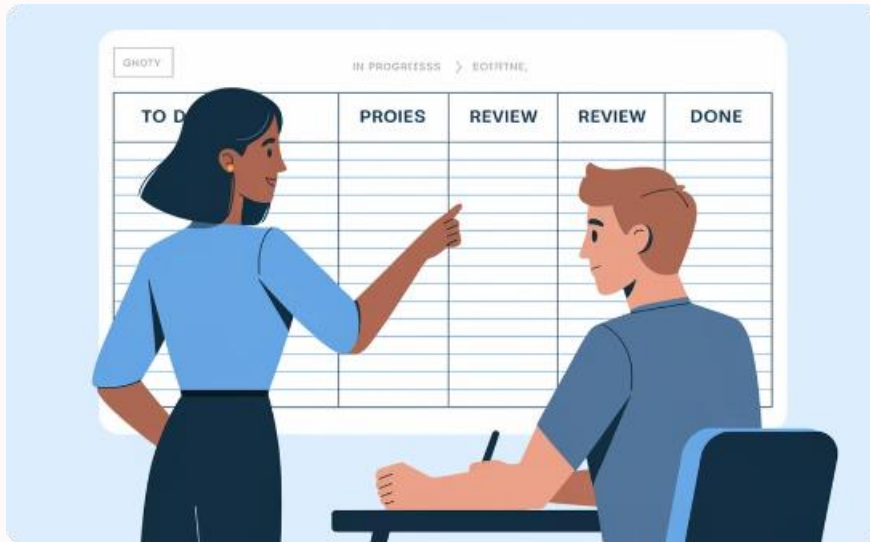
Scrum Master vs. RTE

Scrum Master works at team level. RTE operates at ART level in SAFe environments.

1 ——— **2** ——— **3**

Project Manager vs. Program Manager

PM manages individual projects. Program Manager oversees multiple projects for organizational alignment.

Collaboration in Lean Agile

PO and Scrum Master Synergy

Aligning product vision with team execution for optimal value delivery.

Strategic Alignment

Program and Project Managers ensuring cohesive execution across initiatives.

Scaled Coordination

RTE orchestrating multiple teams for synchronized delivery in SAFe.

Benefits of Clear Roles

1

Improved Efficiency

Clear responsibilities reduce overlap and confusion.

2

Enhanced Transparency

Well-defined roles create accountability and visibility.

3

Faster Value Delivery

Streamlined processes and focused efforts accelerate outcomes.

4

Better Alignment

Roles ensure all efforts contribute to organizational goals.

Conclusion: Roles Drive Lean Agile Success

Clear roles and responsibilities are critical in Lean Agile environments. They drive efficiency, transparency, and value delivery. Understanding core responsibilities helps teams collaborate effectively and align with organizational objectives.