Scrum Team Journal

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As the Scrum Master for the SNHU Travel project, my role would be to ensure that all Scrum events are structured, efficient and valuable to the team. Sprint Planning would be a well-prepared session where the Product Owner and developers collaborate to define a clear sprint goal and select backlog items that align with the overarching product goal. To ensure focus and efficiency, I would encourage the team to use techniques like Planning Poker for estimation and dot voting to prioritize tasks. This would prevent overcommitting and ensure that the work selected is realistic within the sprint timeframe. By the end of our sprint planning, the team should leave with a solid sprint backlog and a clear understanding of their priorities. The biggest benefit of this event is that it aligns the team and stakeholders on expectations, reducing confusion and cope creep before the development starts (Schwaber & Sutherland, 2020)

To Keep progress on track, I would facilitate Daily Scrums as concise, structured meetings where developers inspect their progress toward the sprint goal and adjust their plans as needed. While the traditional “Yesterday, Today, blockers” format is useful, I would allow flexibility in how the team conducts these meetings, such as using a Kanban board walkthrough to visualize work. To maintain engagement, I would encourage different team members to take turns leading the Daily Scrum, making it feel more collaborative rather than just a routine status check. The primary benefit of this event is that it fosters transparency and self-management, allowing the team to identify roadblocks early and quickly adapt to changes (Moe et al., 2021).

In addition to daily check-ins, Backlog Refinement would be an ongoing process to ensure backlog items remain well-defined and ready for future sprints. I would encourage the team to dedicate time each week for refinement, rather than waiting until sprint planning, so they aren’t overwhelmed with the unclear requirements. Using techniques like user story mapping and splitting large tasks into smaller, more manageable pieces would make sure backlog items are well-scoped and estimated. The benefit of backlog refinement is that it minimizes confusion during spring planning. This makes the development process smoother and reduces the risk of wasted effort on poorly defined work (Ramasubbu et al., 2021).

Once the sprint is complete, the Sprint review would be a collaborative session where the Scrum Team showcases their work to stakeholders, gathers feedback and discusses any necessary changes to the product backlog. I would encourage interactive demonstrations rather than simple presentations, allowing stakeholders to ask questions and provide real-time input. This ensures that the product stays aligned with business needs and customer expectations. The biggest benefit of this event is that is promotes frequent feedback and course correction which reduces the risk of delivering a product that doesn’t meet the stakeholder needs (Schwarber & Sutherland, 2020)

Finally, the Sprint Retrospective would be a structured but open discussion where the team reflects on what went well, what didn’t and how they can improve. To keep the retrospective engaging, I would use different techniques such as the Stop-Start-Continue method to ensure that feedback remains fresh and actionable. I would also help the team identify one or two key improvements to implement in the next sprint. The key benefit of this event is that it fosters continuous improvement and team growth, that helps the team refine both their processes and collaboration (Gandomani & Nafchi, 2021).

Overall, Scrum provides a structured approach to product development that emphasizes alignment, adaptability and continuous improvement. By executing these events effectively and ensuring they remain engaging and valuable, I would help the Scrum Team work efficiently while maintaining a sustainable and high-performing environment. By reinforcing open communication, removing blockers and keeping meetings timeboxed, I would ensure that each event serves its purpose and drives the team toward success.

**References**

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