

# Lesson 2

## Characterizing the role of the Scrum Master

1. Introducing Scrum in SAFe
2. Characterizing the role of the Scrum Master
3. Experiencing PI Planning
4. Facilitating Iteration Execution
5. Finishing the PI
6. Coaching the Agile Team

**SAFe® Authorized Course:** Attending this course gives learners access to the SAFe® Scrum Master exam and related preparation materials.

## Learning objectives

- 2.1 Examine the responsibilities of the Scrum Master role
- 2.2 Explore the characteristics of an effective Scrum Master

## 2.1 Examine the responsibilities of the Scrum Master role

### Exercise: The role of the Scrum Master in SAFe

- ▶ Read the Scrum Master article from the Scaled Agile Framework in Appendix A
- ▶ In your group, discuss the role and identify key responsibilities of the Scrum Master role in SAFe
- ▶ Capture your group's key takeaways on a flip chart

PREPARE



SHARE



## How a Scrum Master supports an Agile Team

- ▶ Coaches the team to create better Solutions, improve business results, and better their processes
- ▶ Facilitates team and program events
- ▶ Removes impediments to the team's progress
- ▶ Assists the team in implementing SAFe and working with other teams who may or may not be using SAFe
- ▶ Fosters adoption of Agile technical practices
- ▶ Assists the PO in preparing and refining the backlog for PI and Iteration Planning
- ▶ Coaches the team on the best ways to refine their backlog and create Stories

## The Scrum Master in a SAFe Enterprise

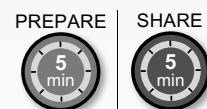
- ▶ Coordinates with other Scrum Masters, the System Team, and shared services in the ART PI Planning events
- ▶ Works with the above teams throughout each Iteration and PI
- ▶ Coordinates with other Scrum Masters and the Release Train Engineer in the Scrum of Scrums
- ▶ Fosters normalized estimating within the team
- ▶ Helps teams operate under architectural and portfolio governance, System Level integration, and System Demos



## 2.2 Explore the characteristics of an effective Scrum Master

### Exercise: Effective Scrum Master in SAFe

- ▶ What traits and attributes do you think an effective Scrum Master needs when implementing SAFe?
- ▶ With your partner, take turns explaining to each other the characteristics and key responsibilities you think an effective Scrum Master needs to embrace when implementing SAFe
- ▶ Switch roles after 2 minutes



## The Scrum Master is a servant leader

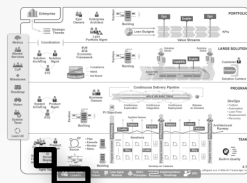
- ▶ Listens and supports team members in problem identification and decision-making
- ▶ Understands and empathizes with others
- ▶ Encourages and supports the personal development of each individual
- ▶ Persuades rather than uses authority
- ▶ Thinks beyond day-to-day activities
- ▶ Looks to help without diminishing the commitment of others
- ▶ Coaches the team on Agile best practices



## Lesson summary

In this lesson, you:

- ▶ Examined the roles and responsibilities of the Scrum Master in SAFe
- ▶ Explored the characteristics of effective Scrum Masters



*Suggested Scaled Agile Framework reading:  
“Lean-Agile Leaders” and “Scrum Master” articles*