What are the events in Scrum?

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Scrum has five events: the Sprint itself, Sprint Planning, the Daily Scrum, the Sprint Review and the Sprint Retrospective. Each exists to give the team a regular chance to plan, inspect progress and adapt. The definitions here follow the 2020 Scrum Guide.

TL;DR The short version

- Scrum has five events: the Sprint, Sprint Planning, the Daily Scrum, the Sprint Review and the Sprint Retrospective (2020 Scrum Guide).
- A Sprint lasts one month or less and produces a usable increment; the Daily Scrum is 15 minutes for Developers to adjust the plan.
- The Review inspects the product with stakeholders, while the Retrospective inspects how the team works.

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What is a Sprint?

A Sprint is a fixed period of one month or less during which the team works toward a goal and produces a usable increment of the product. A new Sprint starts as soon as the last one ends, which gives the work a steady rhythm.

What happens in Sprint Planning?

The team agrees why the Sprint is valuable, what can be done in it, and how the chosen work will be completed. The result is a Sprint Goal and a plan, the Sprint Backlog, that the team can inspect as it goes.

What is the Daily Scrum?

A 15-minute event for the Developers to inspect progress toward the Sprint Goal and adjust the plan for the next day. It is for the people doing the work, not a status report to a manager.

What is the difference between the Sprint Review and the Retrospective?

The Review looks at the product: the team and stakeholders inspect what was built and discuss what to do next. The Retrospective looks at the team’s way of working: what went well, what did not, and what to change in the next Sprint. The first improves the product, the second improves the process.

Who does what?

The Scrum Guide names three accountabilities: Developers build the increment, the Product Owner maximises the value of the product and orders the backlog, and the Scrum Master helps the team follow Scrum and remove obstacles.

Related credential: Associate Technical Practitioner. Explore the exam facts and syllabus.

Sources and further reading

1. Schwaber, K. and Sutherland, J. (2020). The Scrum Guide. scrumguides.org.

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