Game Situation Checklist

___ How many outs are there?
   • Play may remain live if the defensive team makes a single out versus if there are two outs before play begins.
   • More emphasis on a call may be in order for the third out.
   • There could be a tag-up situation if a runner is on and there are fewer than two outs.

___ What is the count?
   • More emphasis on a call may be in order if called upon to rule on a checked swing that creates the third strike.
   • Runners are likely to take certain actions depending on the count.

___ How many runners are on? Where? Who are you responsible for?
   • Determines which runner(s) you need to watch.
   • Informs you where the next play is likely to be.
   • Prepares you for a force play versus a tag play.

___ What does the game situation suggest the batting team will do?
   • In a sacrifice, the batter may be more likely to attempt a bunt.
   • Certain game situations make a steal more likely.
   • Watch for hit-and-run situations where the runner will be leaving the base early, expecting the batter to hit the ball.

___ What is the score of the game?
   • It is important to be aware of the score in case asked by a player; and the closer the game, the more you need to be on top of things and “sell” your calls effectively.
   • Expect to get more “flack” late in a close game.
   • With a tied score or a one-run difference, prepare for a squeeze play.
   • Expect sloppy play in a lopsided game and stay focused.

___ Where does the batter usually hit the ball? Is the batter a power or contact hitter?
   • Track batter tendencies to help you create your action plan.
   • If a batter tends to hit the ball to the outfield, you can prepare for likely events in terms of runners, tag-ups covering a defensive play in the outfield.

___ How are the fielders set up?
   • Be aware of any defensive shifts to anticipate plays.

___ How is the defensive team pitching the batter?
   • Outside pitches tend to be hit away from the batter and inside pitches are more likely to be pulled toward the batter.