One of the core problems facing both sport scientists and sport philosophers is how to understand the background conditions that underlie all intentional movement in sport. By the term "background conditions" I mean, in a first approximation, those conditions that enable and constrain the performance of every intentional movement, and which moreover, remain in the background in the sense that the performer is not consciously or explicitly aware of them while s/he is performing. Hence, background conditions are hard to render intelligible. The aim of this paper is to disclose essential structures of the background conditions of intentional movement in sport. To reach this aim the paper applies Hubert Dreyfus's (1991; 1992) phenomenology of "skillful coping" to a dynamical sport context such as football. When we are in flow, performing at our best – or simply unreflectively carrying out everyday activities such as opening doors, driving to work, walking and talking, or playing football – we are, according to Dreyfus, skillfully involved coping with the surroundings. Dreyfus's phenomenology of skillful coping is supposed to provide us with an understanding of the structure of the background conditions that enable us to be deeply intertwined with the world. Dreyfus’s approach to skillful coping emanates mainly from his interpretation of Martin Heidegger’s (1962) Being and Time. Dreyfus (1991) sees two important steps in Being and Time which marks important features of his phenomenology of skillful coping. First, Heidegger demonstrates that our practical grasp of the environment, that is, our skillful dealing with equipments is prior to and more basic than a reflective stance towards objects in the world. Secondly, Heidegger’s even more basic step is his claim that the world has a distinctive structure of its own which provides the context – the meaningful whole – “of our pragmatic activity” (Dreyfus 1992: 272). It is the structure of this context or world that is illuminated in the paper in order to disclose the background conditions that call forth intentional movement in sport. The first part of the paper reviews briefly Dreyfus’s phenomenology of skillful coping, while the second part applies and critically examines how Dreyfus’s phenomenology of skillful coping may illuminate the background conditions of intentional movement in a dynamical sport context such as football.