Connection of the timing system

If at all possible, connect your timing system to TAF!
By directly connecting the two systems, you save time and gain data security.
Time, because the results are available in TAF immediately after the transfer at the timing system and you can post the results immediately after the end of the round. Data security, as the results are transferred directly. The risk of double manual processing (writing the result in the protocol and then transferring the result back to TAF in WKB) is eliminated.
In addition, you can (depending on the timing system) transfer the times to TAF with an accuracy of 1/1000 of a second, so that in case of a tie, TAF automatically falls back to the 1/1000 of a second without you having to ask the timing system first.

The interface between TAF and the timing system is provided by the Timing Client.
The exchange protocols for the common timing systems are stored here.

Timing system from

- Finishlynx
- Alge
- Omega

can be connected using "live technology" (using serial and / or network connections), as well as file based at the end of judging.
The false start control systems of these manufacturers can also exchange data with the Timing Client. This is partly also possible live - or when transferring the complete heat data after the end of the evaluation.

Data exchange with systems from

- Sportronic
- Timetronics

is done by file transfer.

What is the difference between these two methods?
If you have a live CiS (commentator info system) in use for the announcer during your event, every evaluated time is displayed on it at the moment it is assigned to a runner in the timing system. The same applies to the results lists in LA.portal.
However, it should be noted that the data at LA.portal is updated once a minute only.
The real-time evaluation can also be displayed on a video board connected via Liveboard. And with the help of the display module for the TiC - video modules can also be used as "clocks" at the finish and then the evaluated results can also be displayed there.

In the file-based exchange, the results are transmitted "en bloc" to the TiC and only then to the TAF server (and the systems connected to it).

Details on the connection of the individual systems can be found in our Wiki under
http://wiki.seltec-sports.net/doku.php?id=taf3_faq_timingclient. (German language
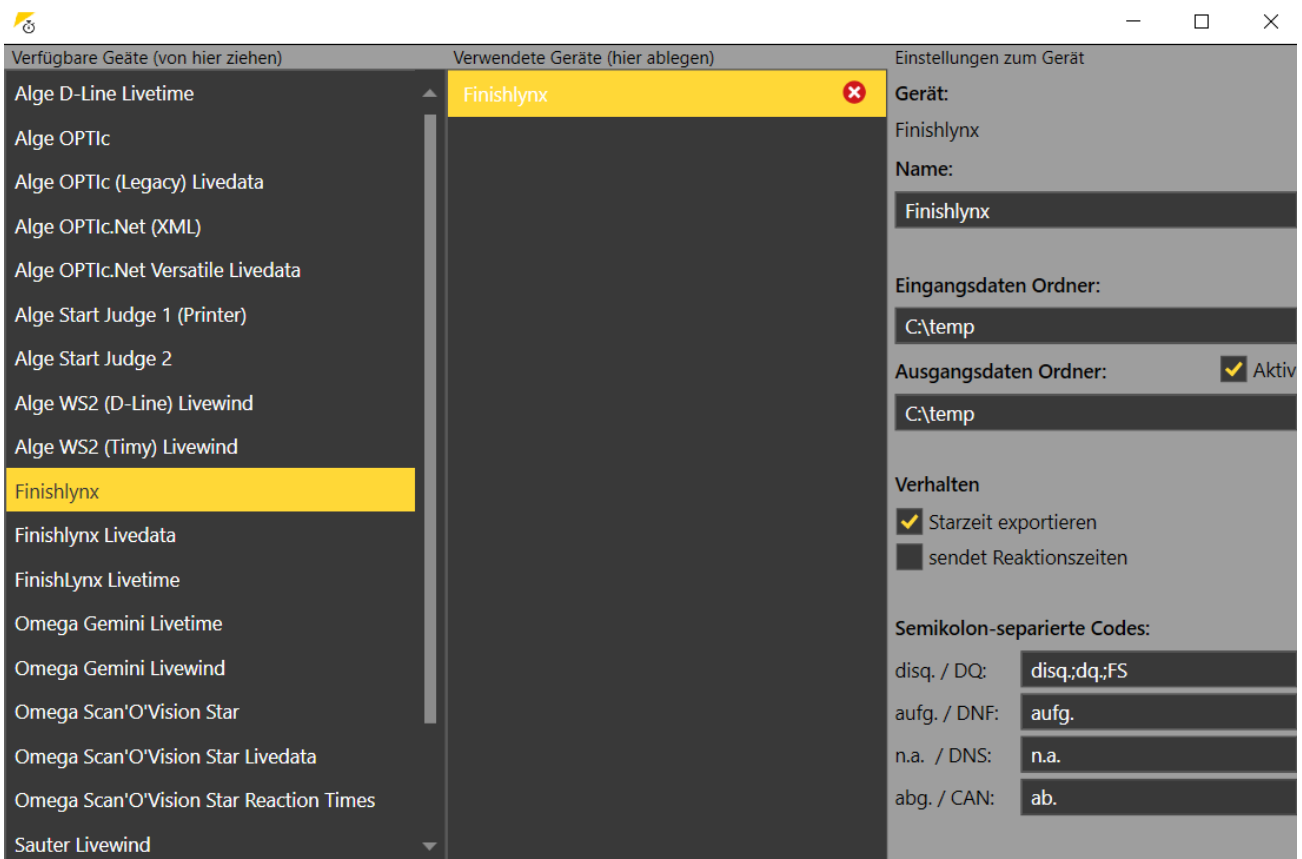only at the moment).

The preparation in the TiC is the same for all systems.
Use the "Devices" button to call up the device settings. Here you determine which devices should
exchange data with the TiC.
To do this, drag the name of the device from the left column to the middle column. If you select the
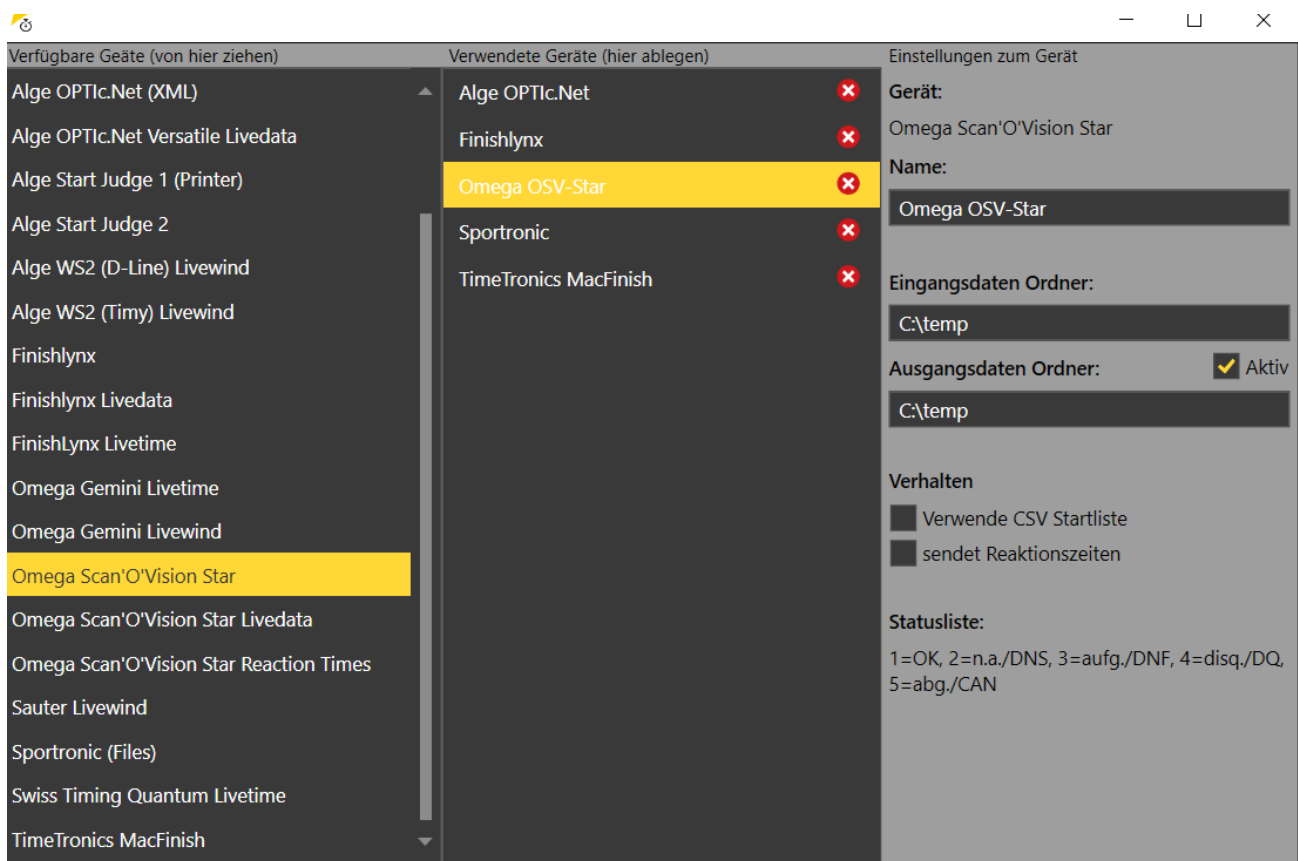device there, the other settings for the device are displayed in the right column.

If a device is selected that exchanges data with the TiC via files, the directories for the exchange are
defined there.
For communication via the serial interface or via network, the port and communication parameters
are defined.

Timing with "Finishlynx" device in the "file exchange" variant

You can also connect several devices to the TiC. E.g. if you also want to connect a backup camera
with data and also import from there again if needed.
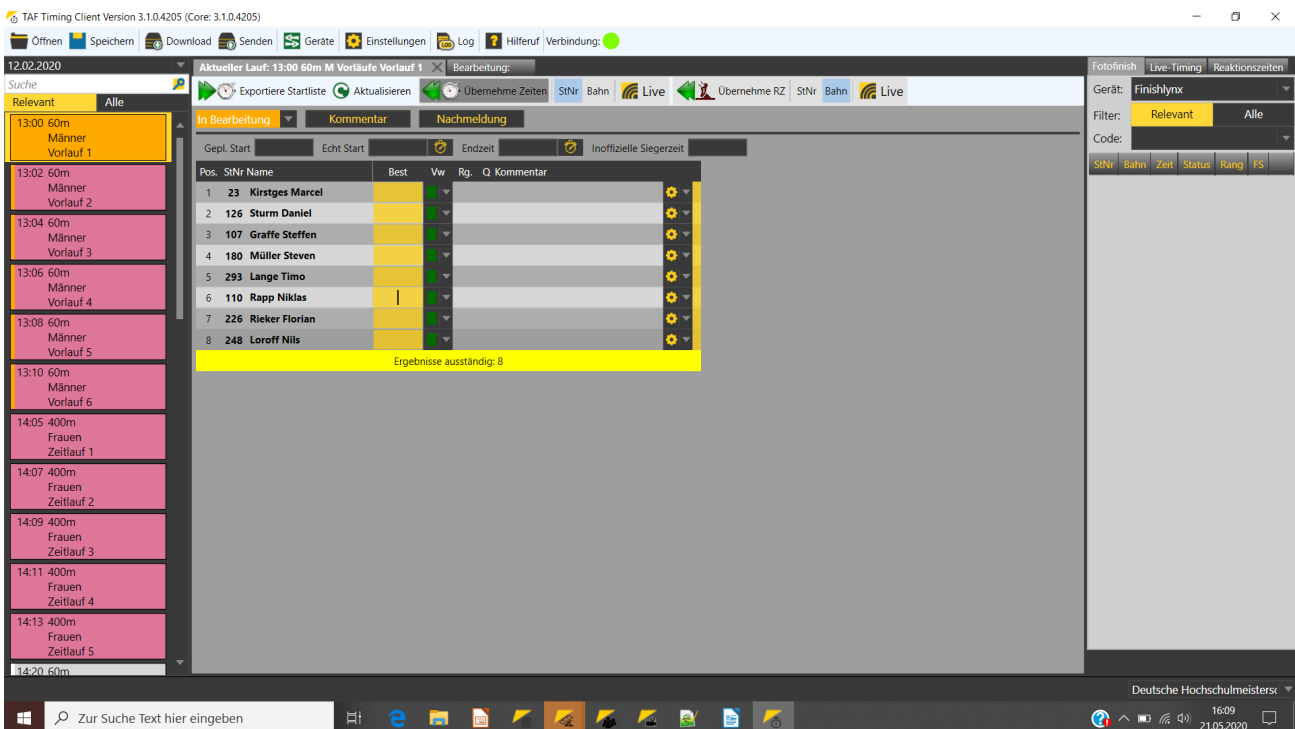
Various active timing systems in the TiC

If a connection to the server was found after starting the TiC, the database can be downloaded from there.

Afterwards, the runs that have received the status "start list official" from the competition office are displayed in the column on the left.

A narrow strip in front of the individual run shows the status of the round, the colour of the run itself shows its status.

In the tab "Relevant", laps with the status "Start list official" (purple) and "in progress" (orange) are displayed.

Runs of a round in progress are also shown if they have the status "Finished" (green).

The first heat of a round is opened and set to "in progress". Now the start lists can be exported.

In order to transfer the start lists to the timing system, a heat must be activated in the TiC, i.e. dragged to the editing window in the middle, and the status of the run must be changed to "in progress". This also changes the status of the run to "in progress".

If you now click on the "Export start list" button, the start lists are transferred to all devices marked as "active" under Devices and can then be read in there.
This feature is new as of version 3.1.0.4267. Previously, the system for the export had to be selected at the top right.

When exporting, all heats are transferred that have the status "in progress" or "start list official" at that time.
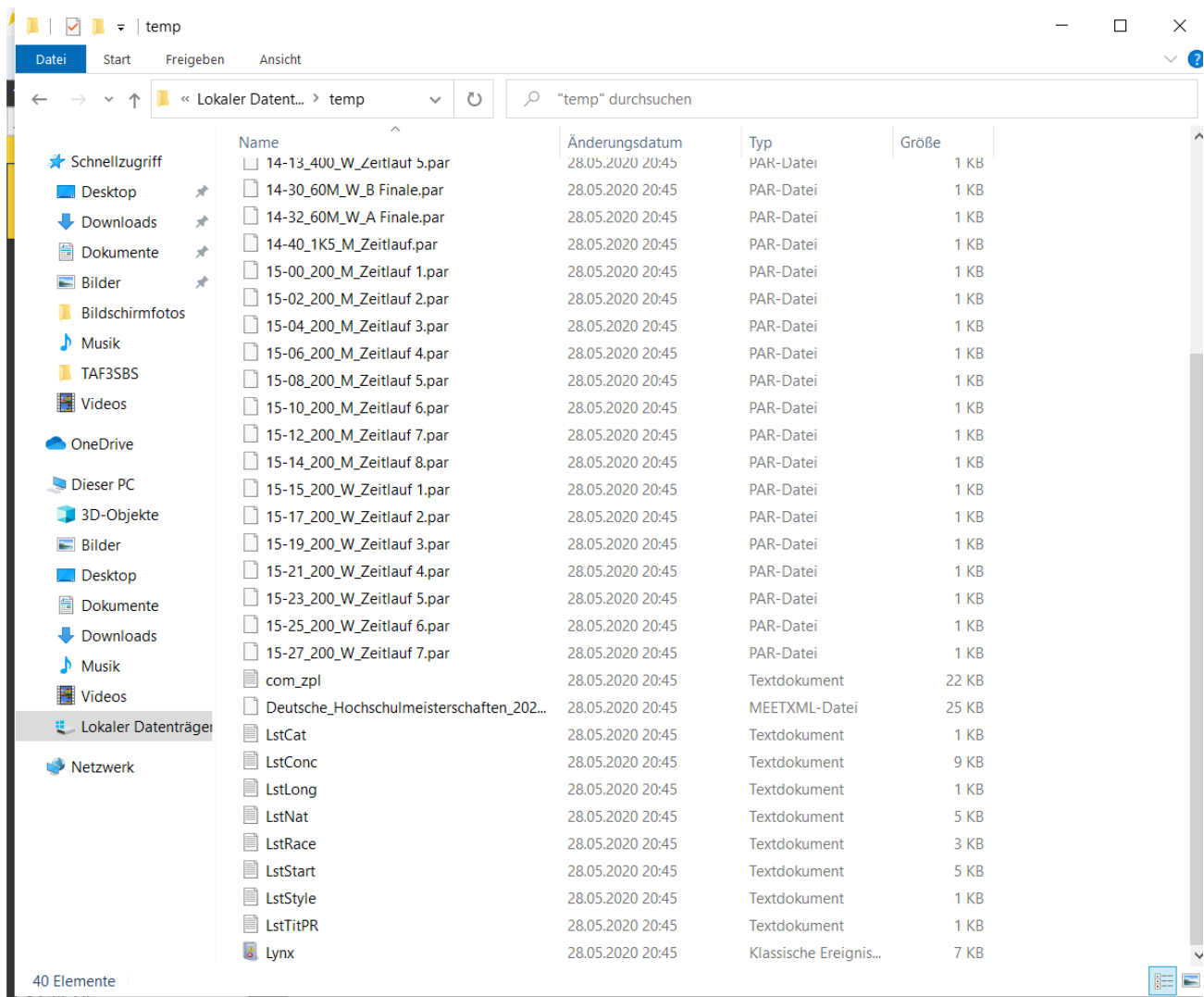
The start lists for Finishlynx system are stored in a file called `lynx.evt`.
For Alge OPTIc, an `.XML` file is created with the name of the event.
The Omega Star software requires separate files for competitors, classes, events, nations, start lists and rounds. These are text files (`.txt`) whose names all start with `Lst`.
The exchange with the Sportronic system is done via the exchange formats published by the DLV in the 90s. The start lists are saved in a file called `com_zpl.txt`.
Timetronics needs a separate file with the extension `.par` for each run.

Exchange directory with export files for 5 different timing systems.

When the heat is evaluated and the data is saved by the timing system, the transfer file is also written.
If you now click on the "Refresh" button, the TiC will load the corresponding data from the system selected at the top right.

If you have the currently evaluated heat open in the TiC (and the timing system stores the heat ID in its result file), the times are immediately read into the open run.
If the heat ID is not available or does not match the open run, the data is not automatically taken over. However, you can select the run in the pull-down menu on the right and assign the data to the run manually.
You can choose whether the assignment is to be made by bib number or lane number.

You can then make annotations (e.g. the rule of a disqualification or warning) and then set the heat to "Finished".
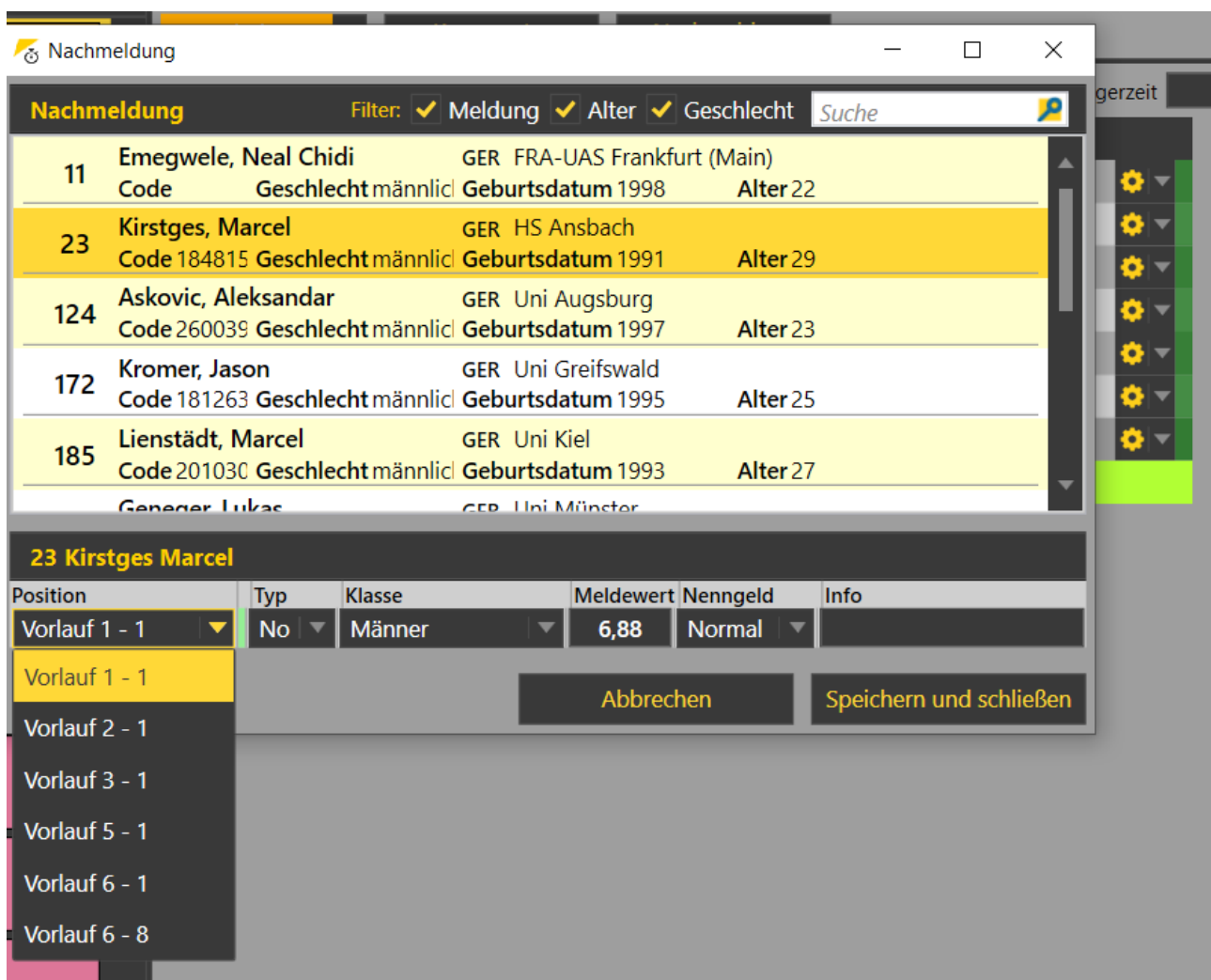
If it is the last (or only) heat of a lap, the whole lap is then also set to "Finished" and will be hidden from the list on the left side.
If you - as we do at our events in Frankfurt-Kalbach - print the results on a network printer in the competition office after each lap from the TiC, you have to do this before you set the last run to "finished".
Or you can switch to the TAB "All", where you can also see the already completed heats.

To print the result list of the round, right-click on a heat and select the corresponding command in the context menu.

If you receive information at short notice that there is an athlete at the start who is not on the start list, you can add him/her to the run by clicking on the "Late entry" button.

Late entry dialogue. In this case, a total of 6 lanes would be free in 5 heats.

Here you have the possibility to select an athlete via the search by start number or name and to assign him/her an empty lane.

Then retransmit the start list to the timing system so that the athlete is also listed there on his/her lane.

Please note that this procedure is only possible if the athlete is already registered for the event, i.e. has a start number, and if there is an empty lane in one of the remaining heats of this round.
If a new heat has to be created or the athlete has to be re-entered into TAF, this has to be done via a TAF client.