<Msports-PRO> Technical Reference Manual.

These are the step-by-step instructions to download, install and use VOLA softwares for timing races. If you follow the instructions and still have technical difficulties running the program, please contact your informatic specialists first. If you believe that there is something wrong with this file, please let us know at the following adress : vola@vola.fr. Thank you.
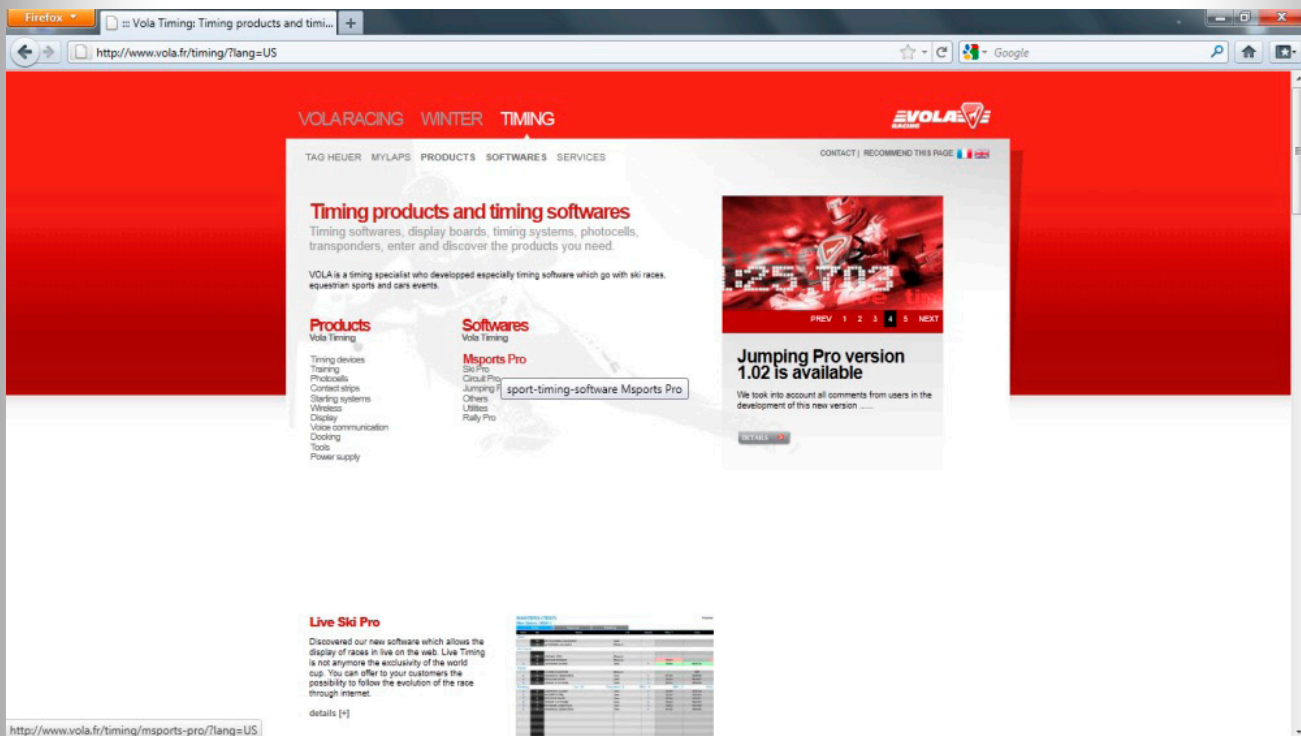
It is recommended you read these instructions completely and close all software applications before starting this installation process. The instructions are divided into several sections that you can find above.

If you have specific questions and if this document doesn't answer to them, please download the document «Frequent questions» on our website which should answer usual difficulties of timekeepers.
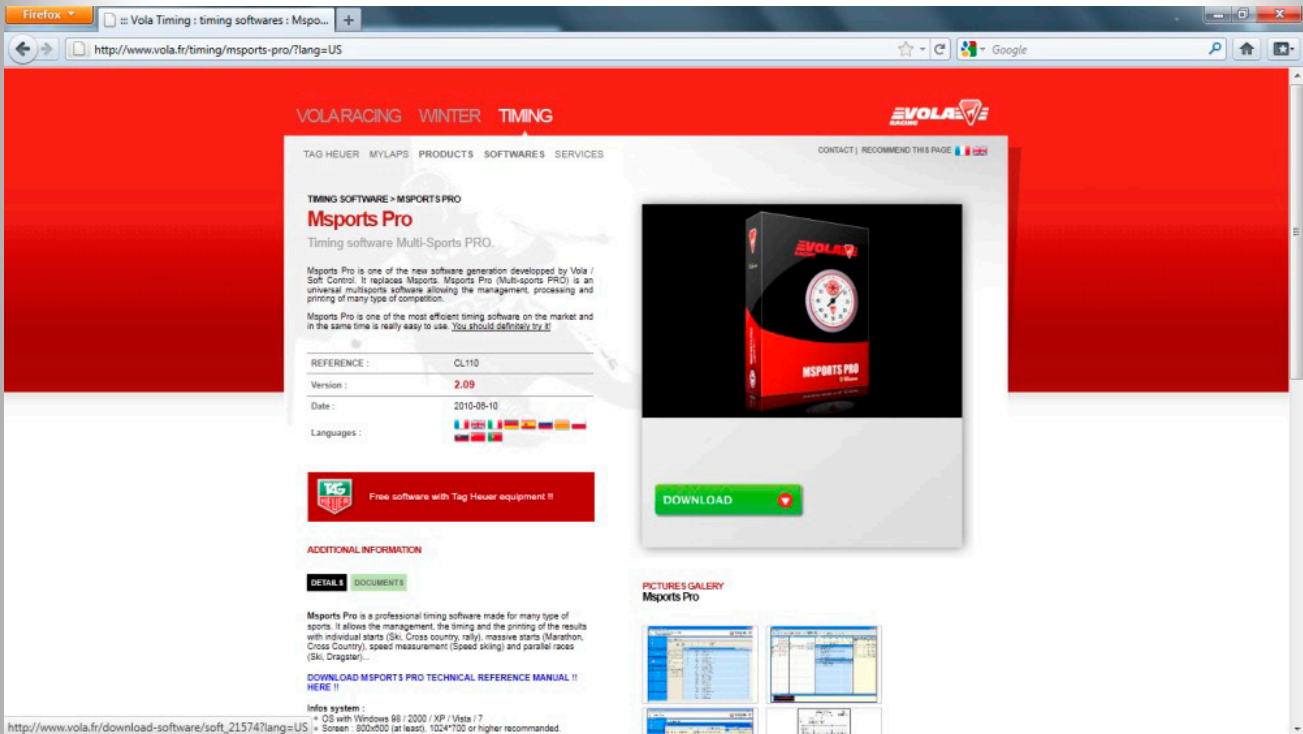
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Step 1 :   Connect yourself to internet and go on www.vola.fr
Then, click on the picture to access
to «VOLA Timing».

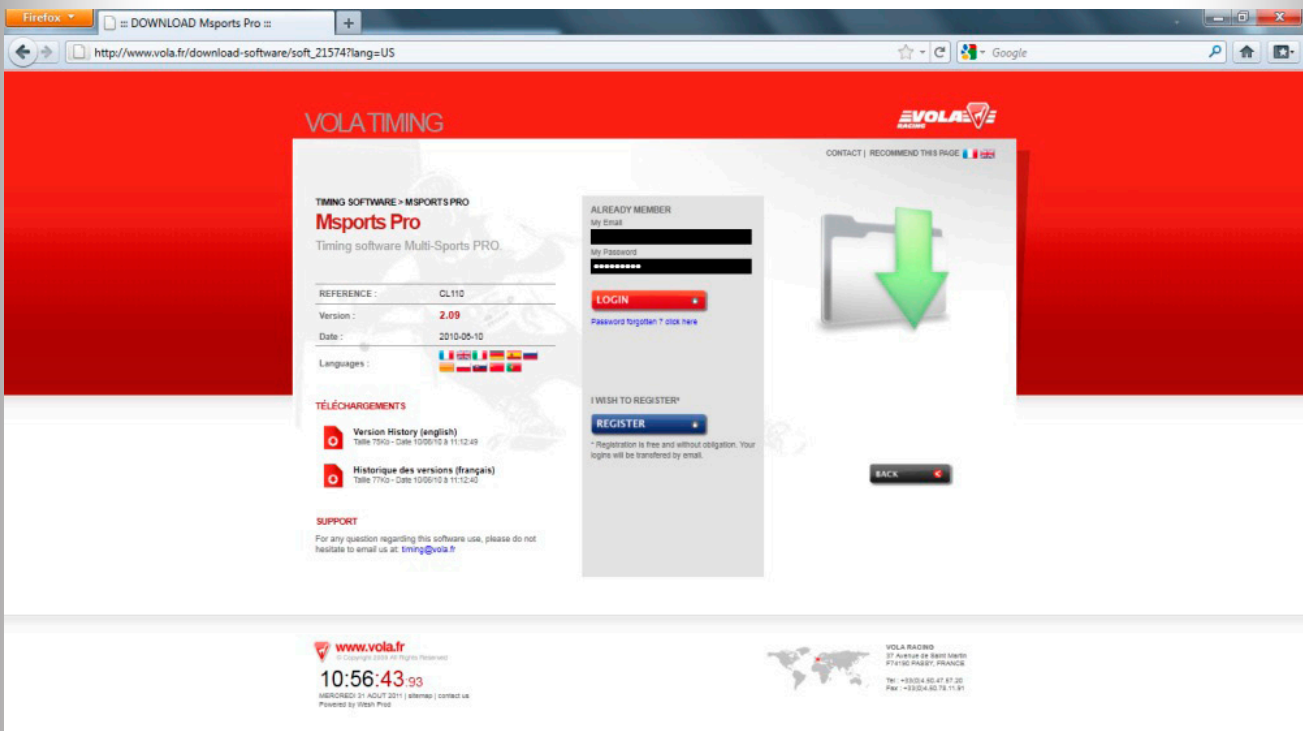**Step 2 :**   Select the software you want to download by clicking on
its name.

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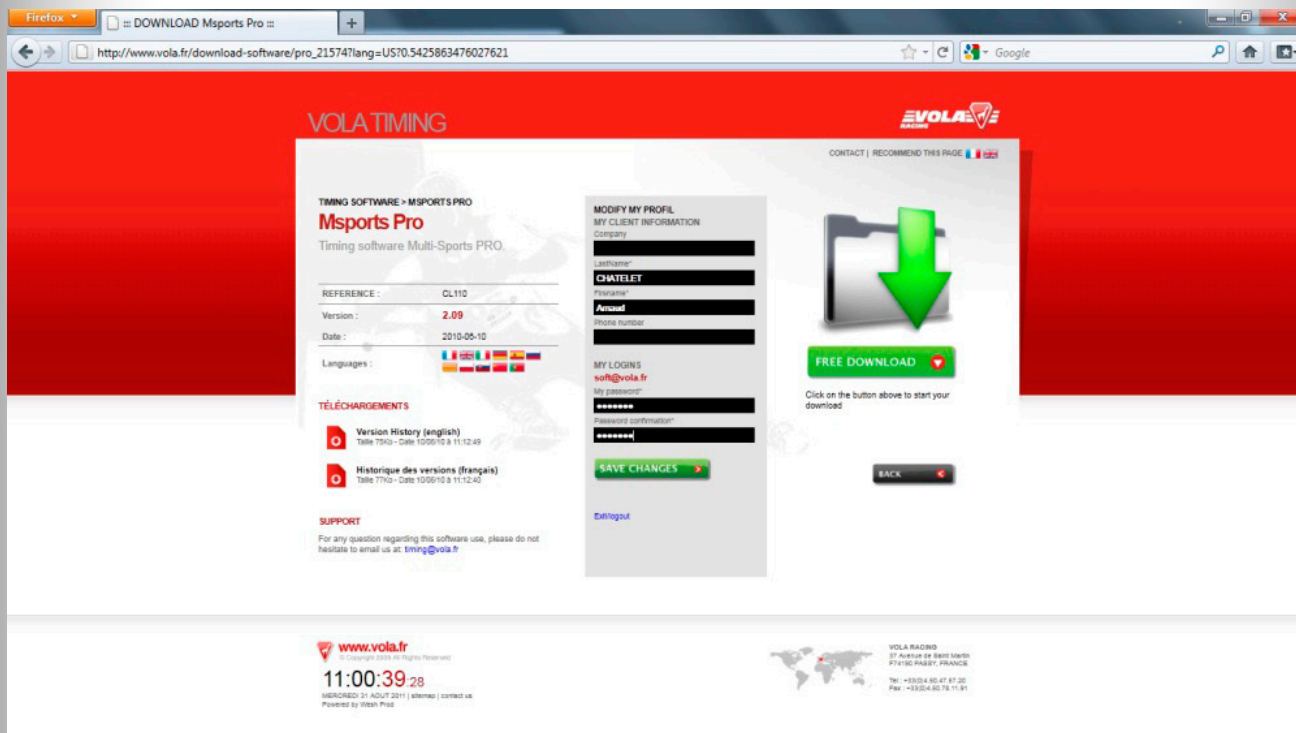
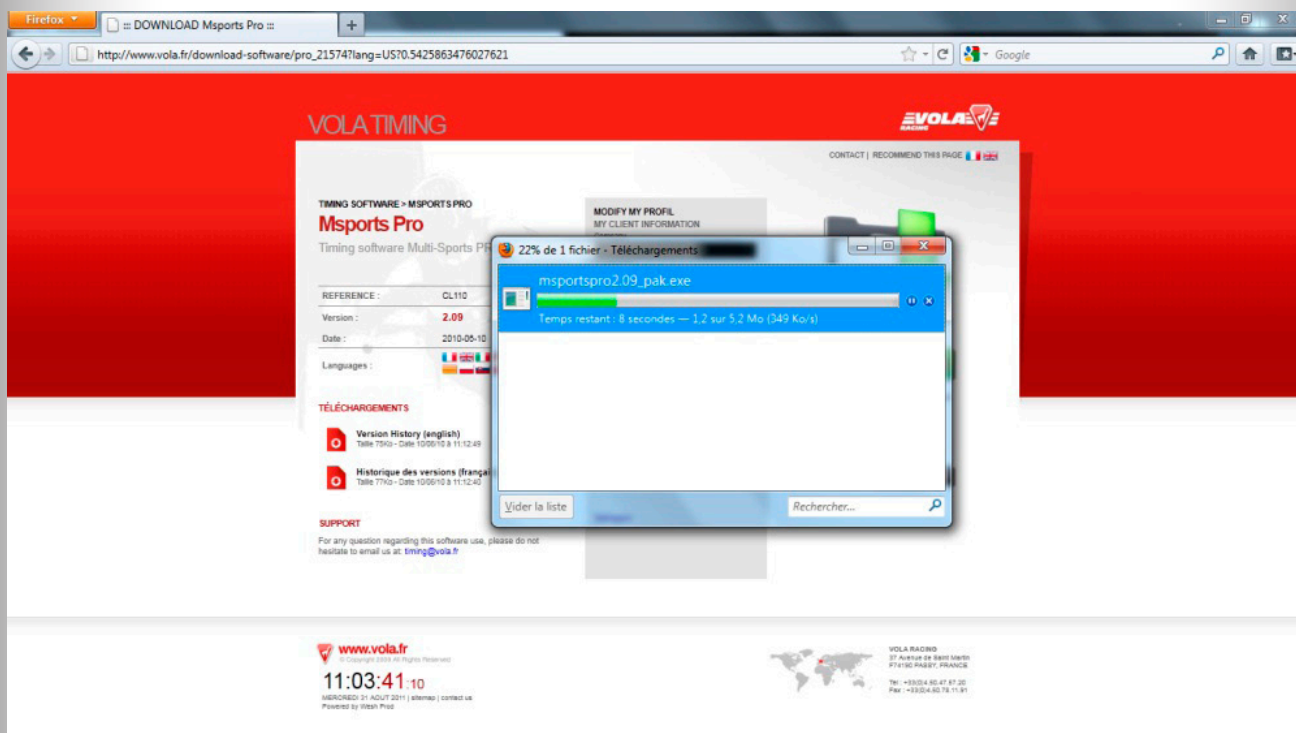Step 3 :   Click on the button «Download».

Step 4 :   «Login» by entering your email and password.
             If you don't have a login, register yourself by clicking on the «register»
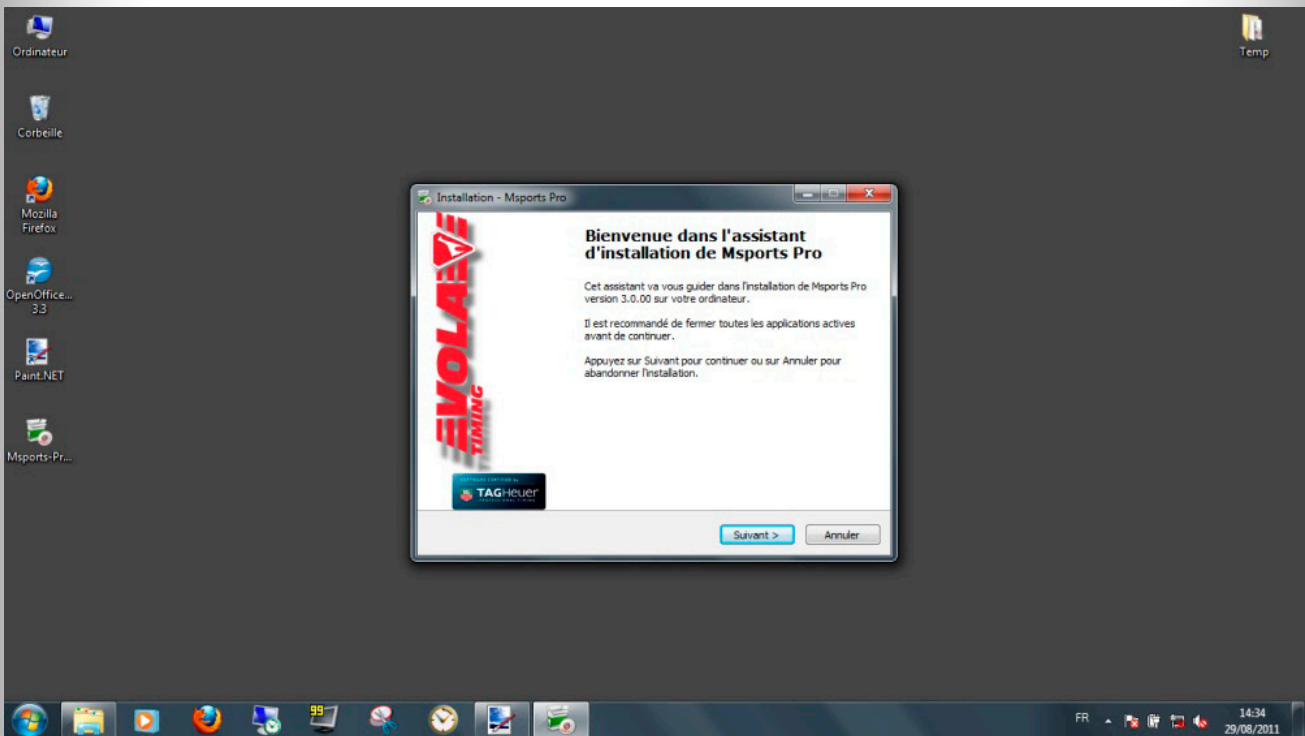   button and follow the instructions.

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Step 5 :   As soon as you are logged in, the button
«Free Download» appears; you can click on it.

Step 6 :   Let the computer download the software.
Then, the file will be available, click on it.

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Step 7 :   The application for installing the software will be
             open and it will show the following window.
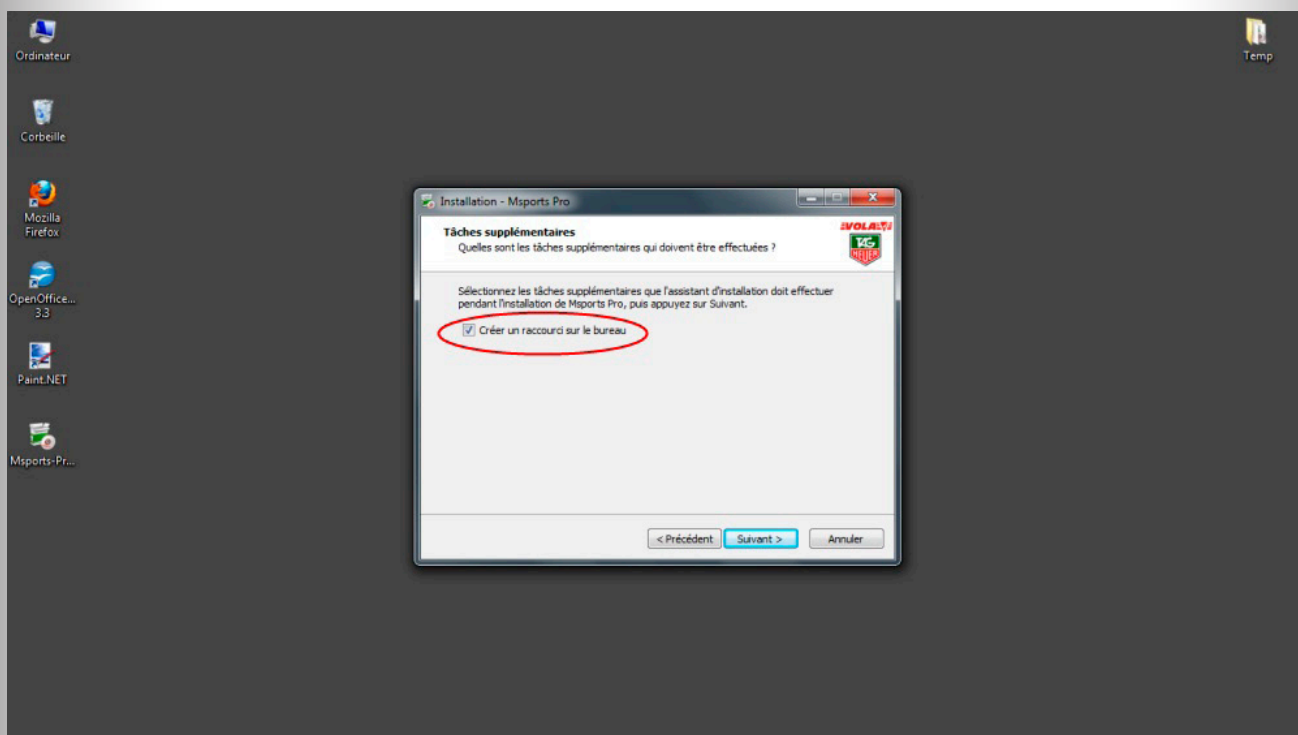   Continue the process.

Step 8 :   Read carefully the license contract and accept it.
   Then, click on «Next».

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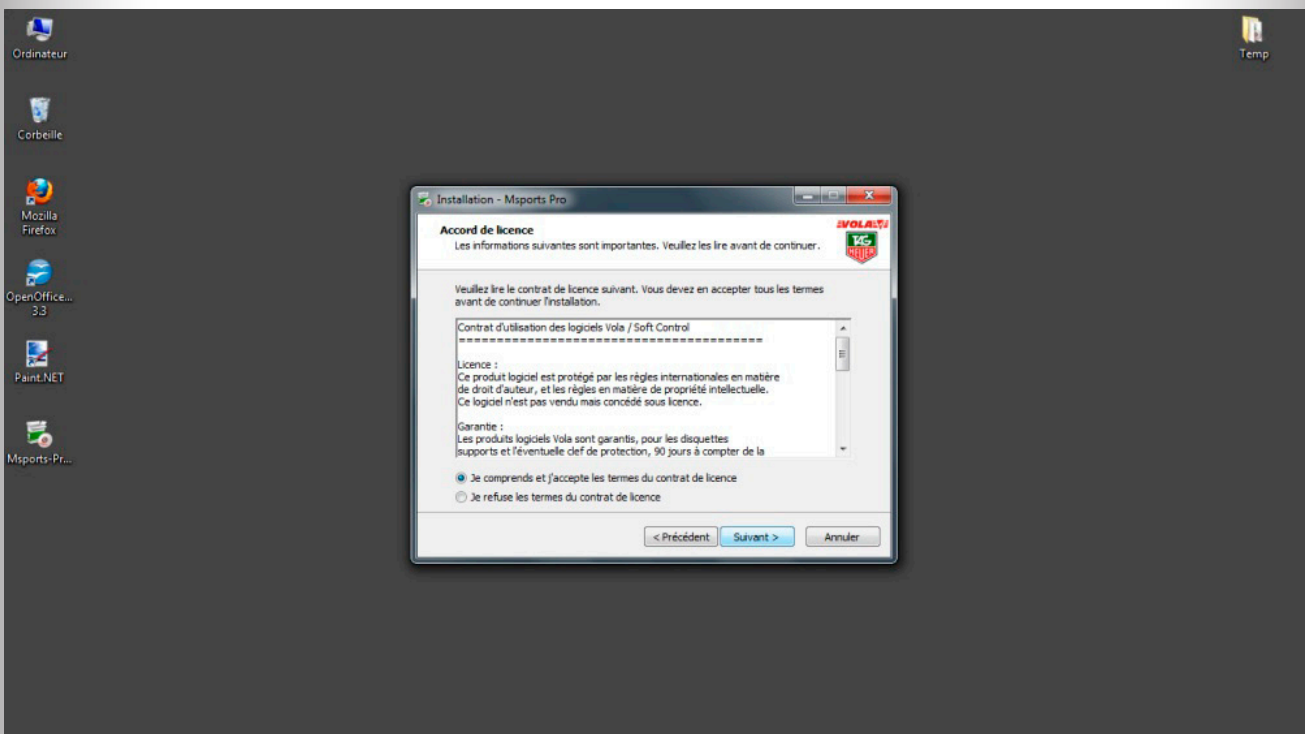
Step 9 : The computer will automatically offer you to install the software in the folder C:\Msports-Pro. Click on «Next» if you agree or specify another directory if you want to install the folder somewhere else.
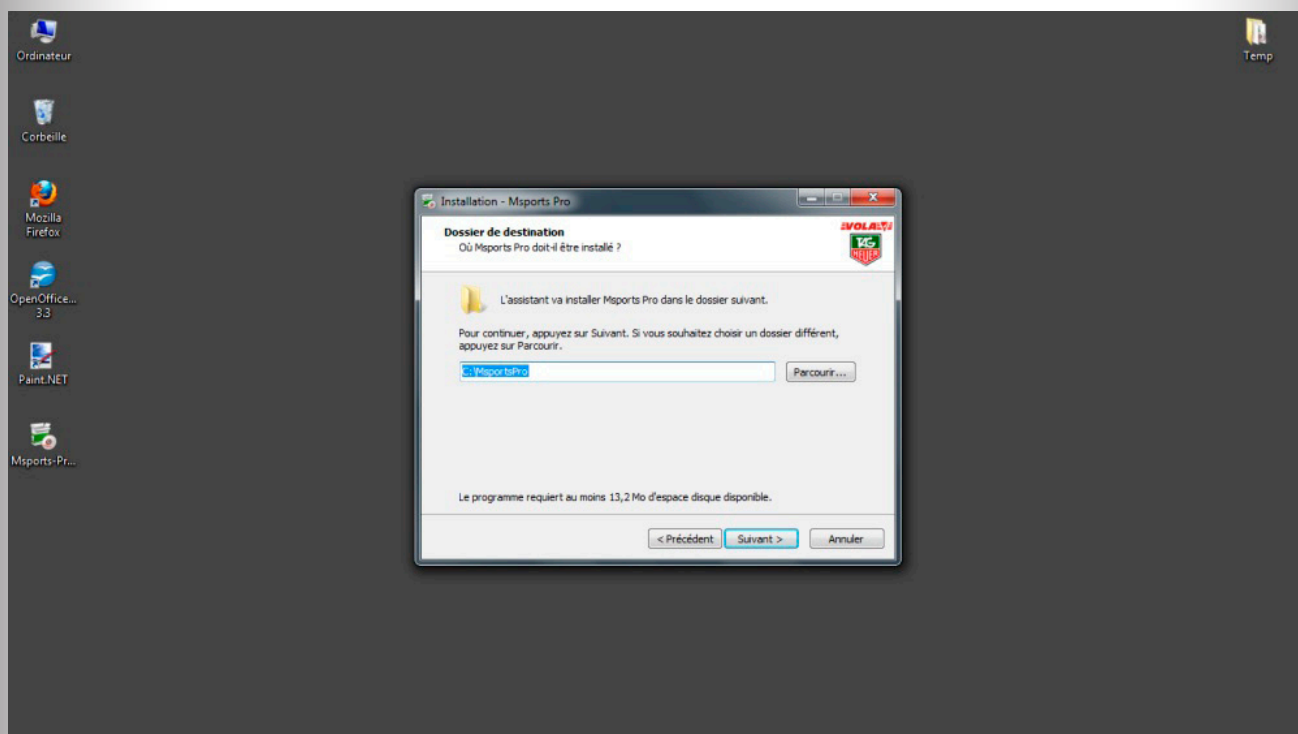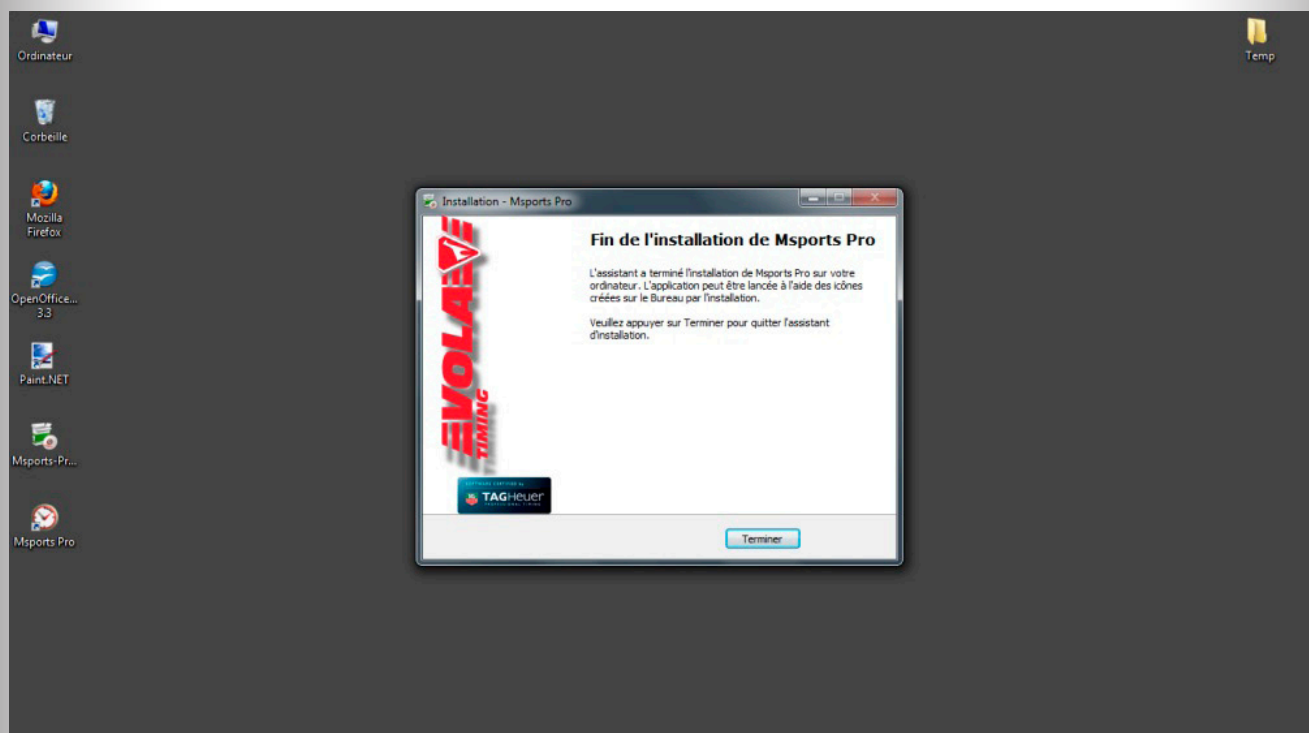

Step 10 : The install application offers you to put a shortcut on your computer's desktop. Choose to do it or not and click on «Next».

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Step 11 :   The install application is summarizing your
            installation request. If you agree, just click on
            «Install». If not, go backward and configure the
            installation as you want.
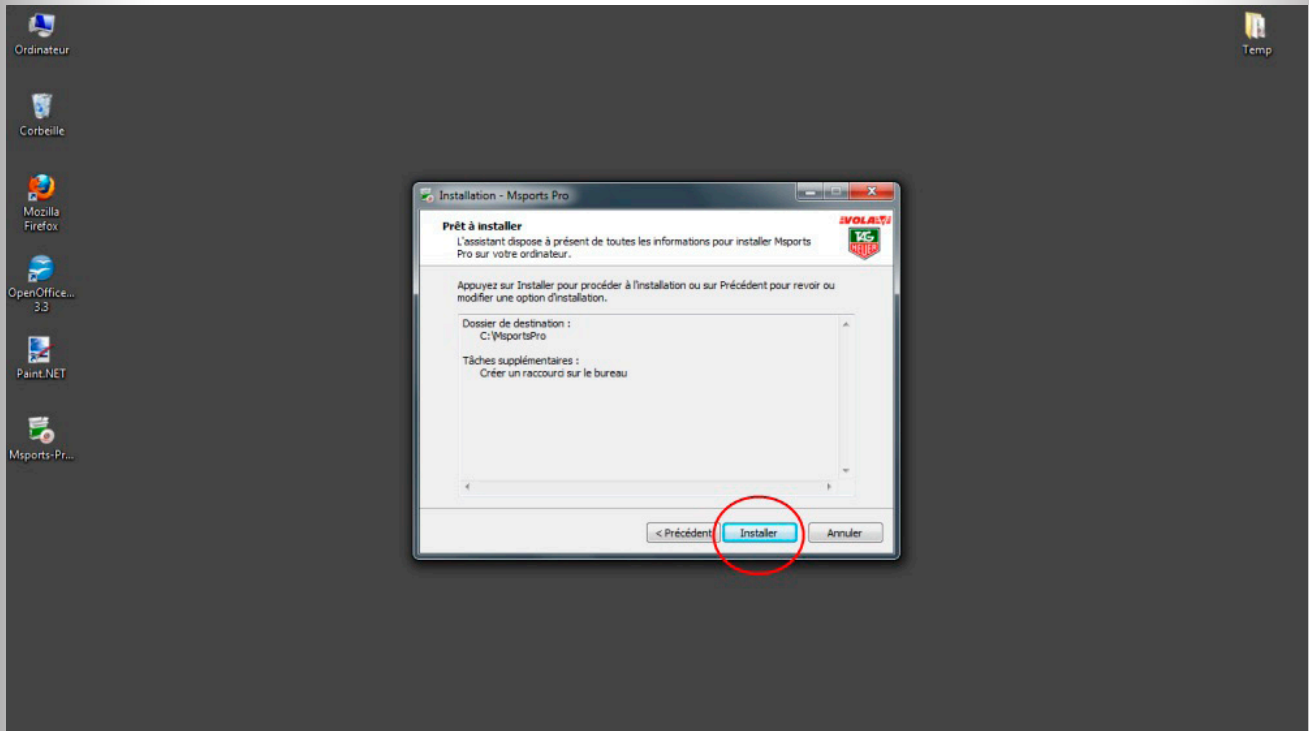
Step 12 :   The installation process is now completed. Click on «Finish» to conclude
            the operation. The shortcut for <Msports-Pro> will then be on your desktop.

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Step 13 : License : If you have subscribed to the fees for <Msports-Pro> <Extended> a dongle protection key should have been shipped to you. If so, plug it now into a USB port on your computer.
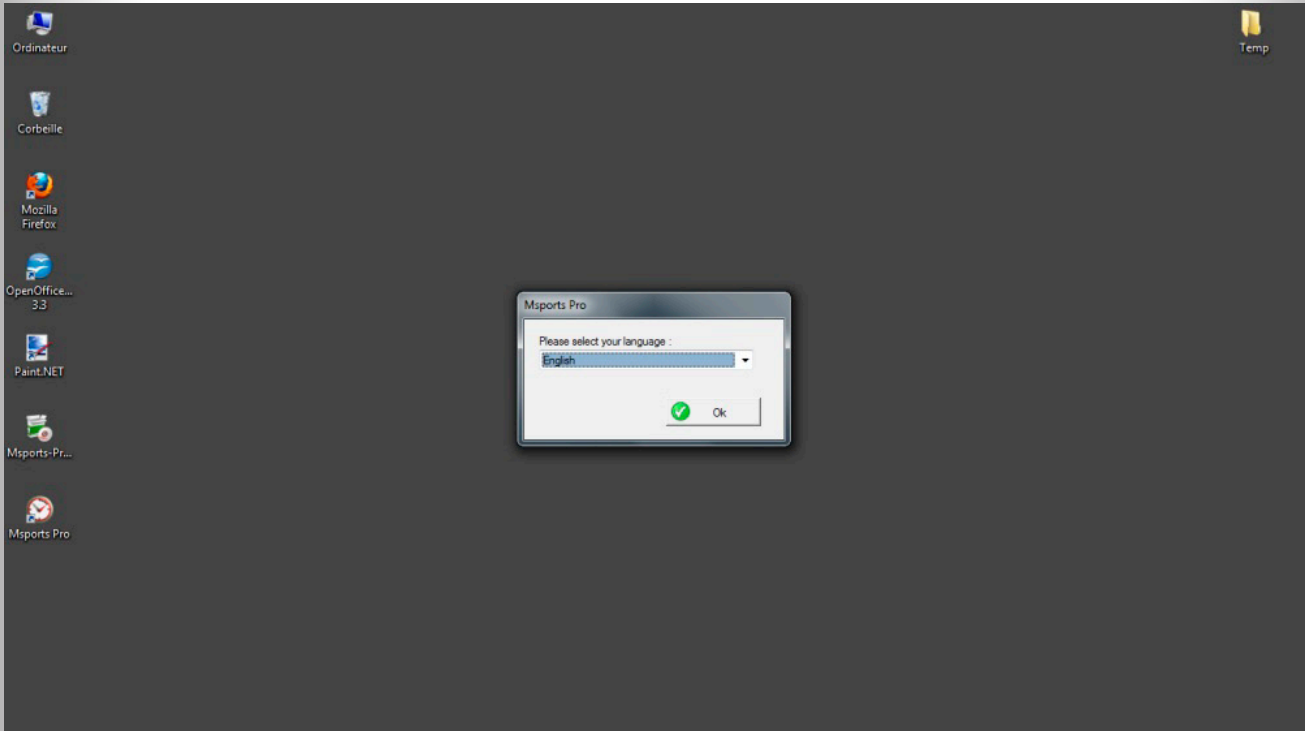
Step 14 : Click on the shortcut for <Msports-Pro> to start the software.

If you have not plugged a protection key, it will run in <Free> mode. This mode is adapted to simple kind of races : access to timing devices and scoreboards is restricted according to current software agreement, data management limited (limited infos on competitors and competitors, no filter, exports limited to pdf format, no data sending to <Video-Msports-Pro> and <Live-Msports-Pro>).

Else with a protection key, the <Extended> mode will run as below :

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Step 15 :   Choose the language you want to use.

Step 16 :   The software has now been launched. Go on «Local configuration» and choose «Timing Device 1» to check if your timing device is well recognized.
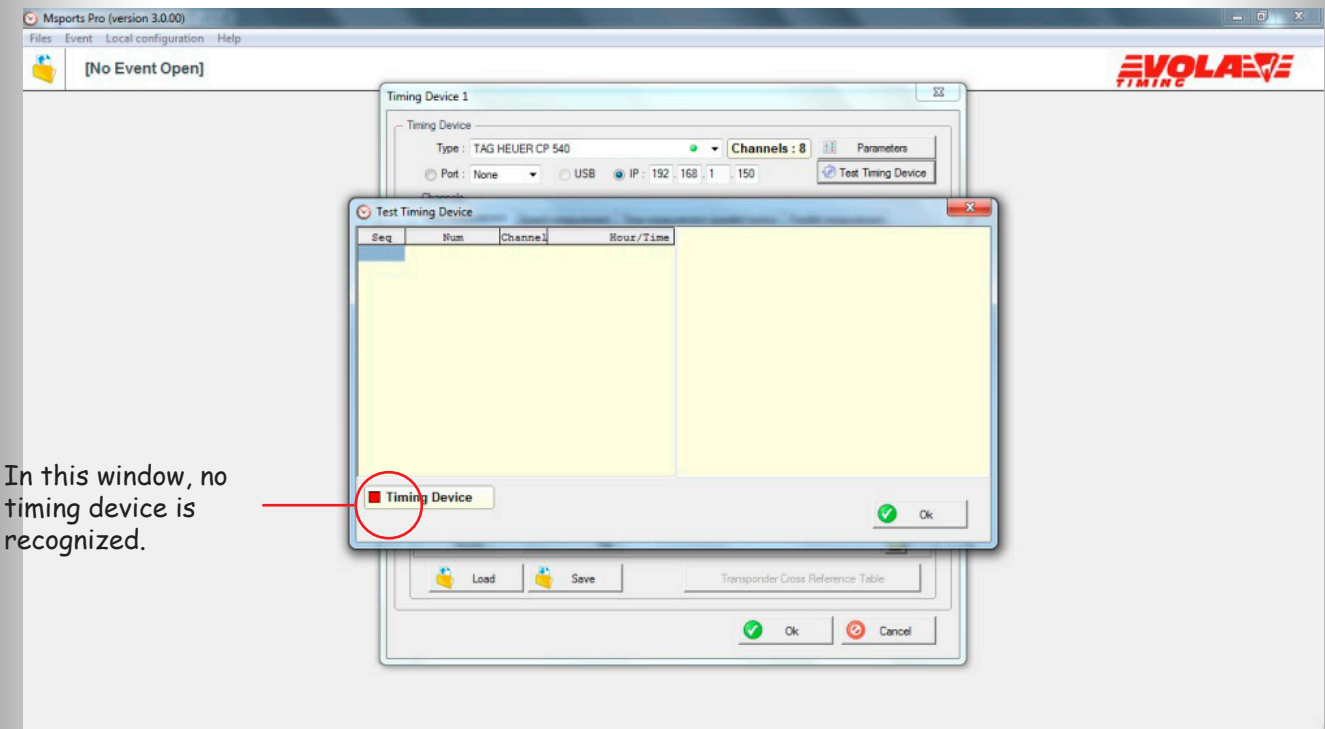
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Step 17 :   Choose your timing device.

TAG Heuer timing devices are working for free with VOLA
software in <Free> mode. For all the timing brands, you have to purchase a dongle to
unlock the software in <Extended> mode.

Check the communication port where you have connected your timing device.
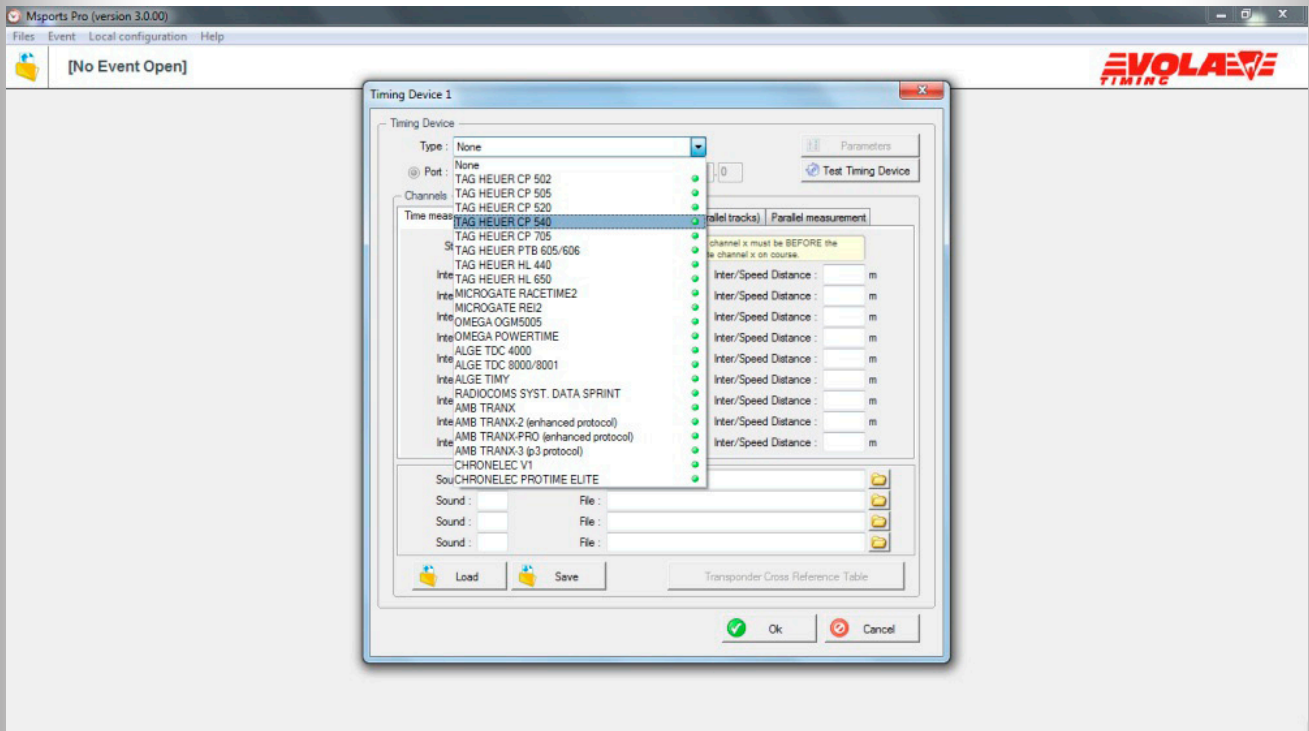
Step 18 :   In the previous window, click on «test timing device» which will bring you to
the following window. Here, you should have your timing device recognized.
If your timing device is not recognized, you will have the window as below.

When you are sure your timing device is well recognized, click on «OK».

In this window, no
timing device is
recognized.

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Step 19 :   You are now back to the timing device connection.

If everything looks correct for you and if the «timing device test» has worked, click on «OK». If your timing device is not recognized, don't try to go forward but check again its plugging configuration.
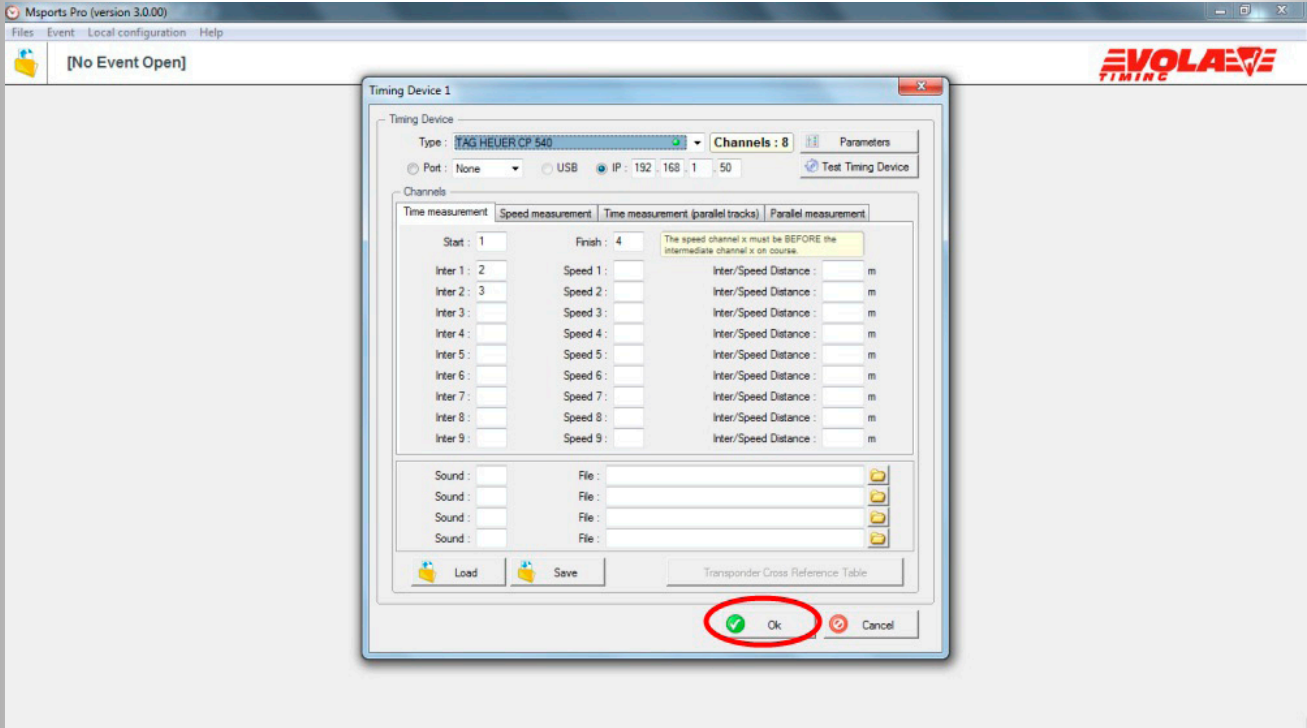
Step 20 :   In ‹Extended› mode, you have to check if your dongle is well plugged and recognized. In «Help» section, click on «Hardware protection key».

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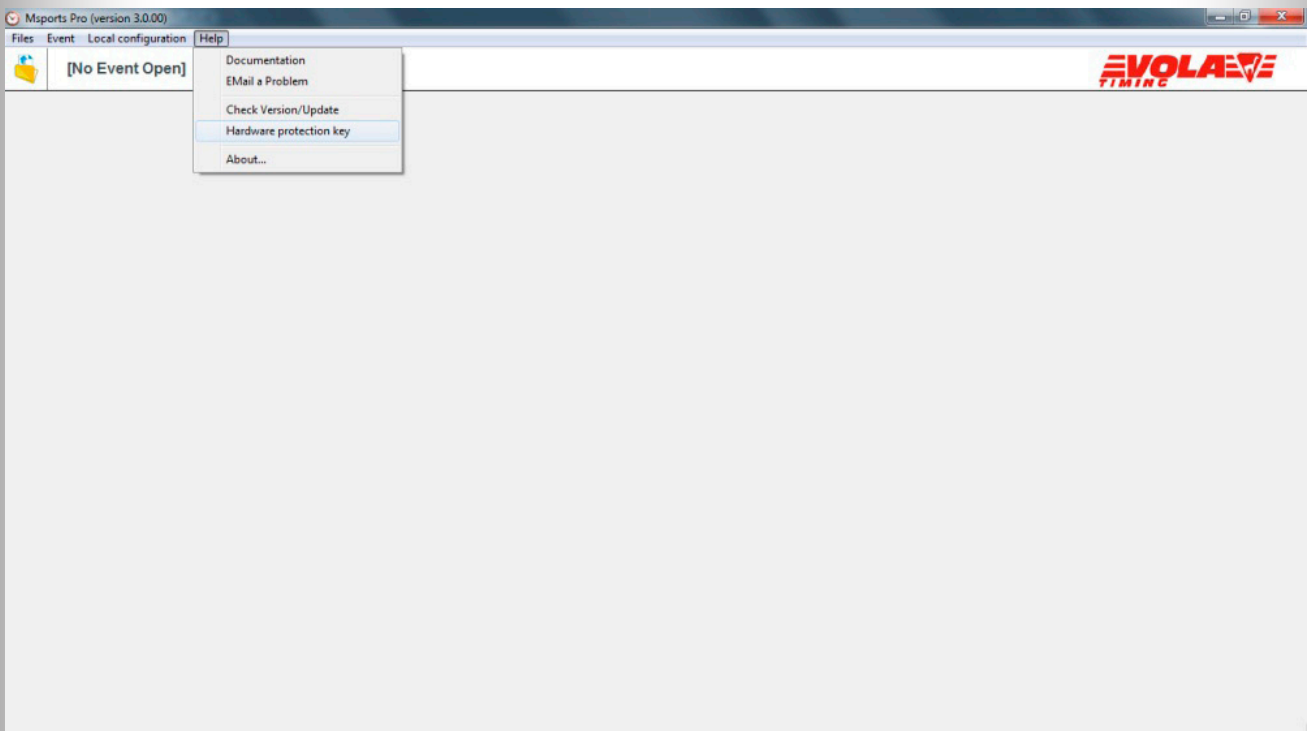
Step 21 : License : The window below will open. Check the light on the left of «Hardware protection key». If this light is green, your dongle is well recognized. If the light is red, your dongle is not connected and the software is only working in ‹Free› mode.

The green light here shows that one dongle protection is connected.

This red cross means that the dongle is not coded to unlock ‹Display-Msports-Pro›.

Step 22 : You have now checked your timing devices and if needed your dongle protection. It's time to open an event by clicking on the big icon «Open an Event». The window below will open and you will have the choice to open an existing event or to create a new one.

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Step 23 : If you create a new event, the software offers you to fill the «General Parameters» and the «Timing Parameters» too.

You can do it immediately or fill it later. The «General Parameters» will appear in <Msports-Pro> main window and in edits and the «Timing Parameters» concerns the event type like speed, multiple runs, ranking rules, etc.
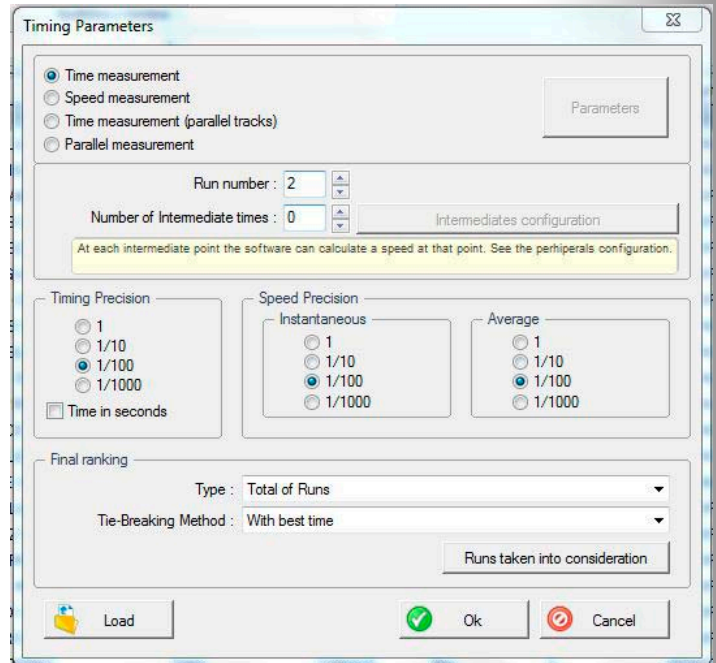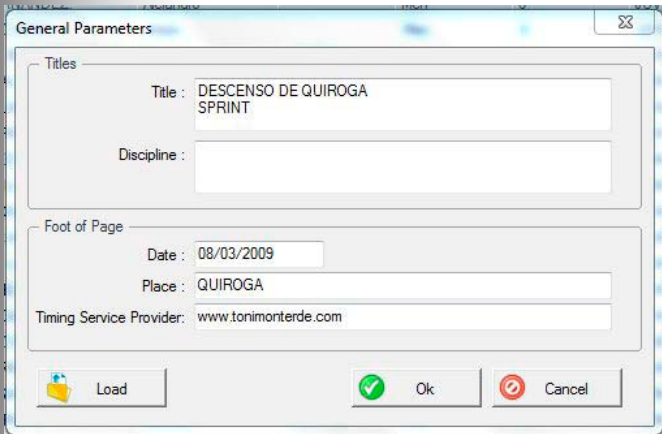
Step 24 : You have now entered in the event you have selected. This section allows you to update the general parameters and printing parameters and to manage the competitors' registrations and to export or print data edits (font, size, adding and positioning logos of the event or sponsors).

You can complete the general parameters of the event.

You can complete the timing parameters of the event.

Click here to manage the list of competitors.

Click here to enter into the Timing section.

Click on these links to view or print edits for lists, rankings : simple, by team, combined, analysis

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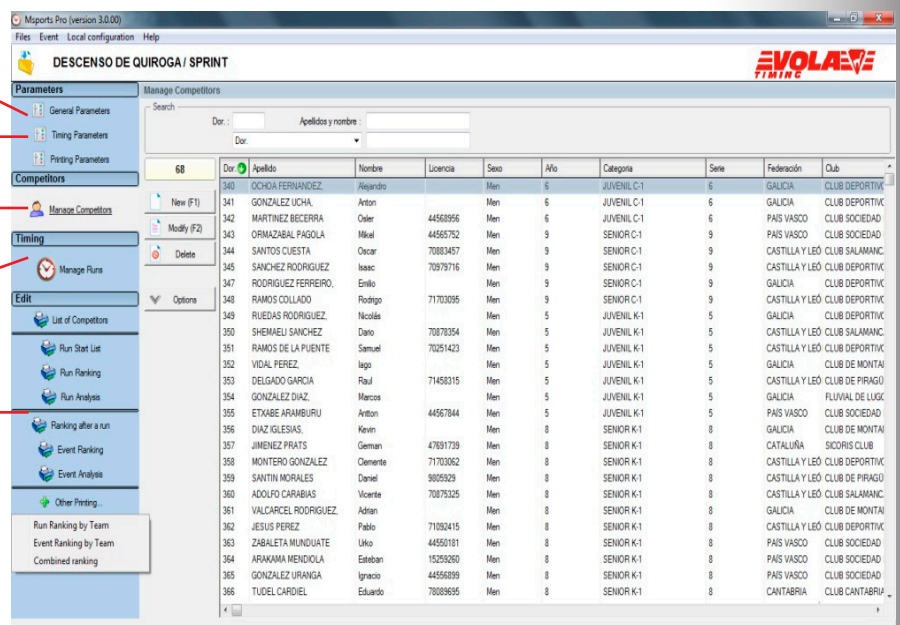
Step 25 : Printing parameters can be configured later at the time when you need an edit. This window is composed of three tabs. Licence : the setup for logos and html exports are available only with a protection dongle coded for <Msports-Pro> <Extended>.
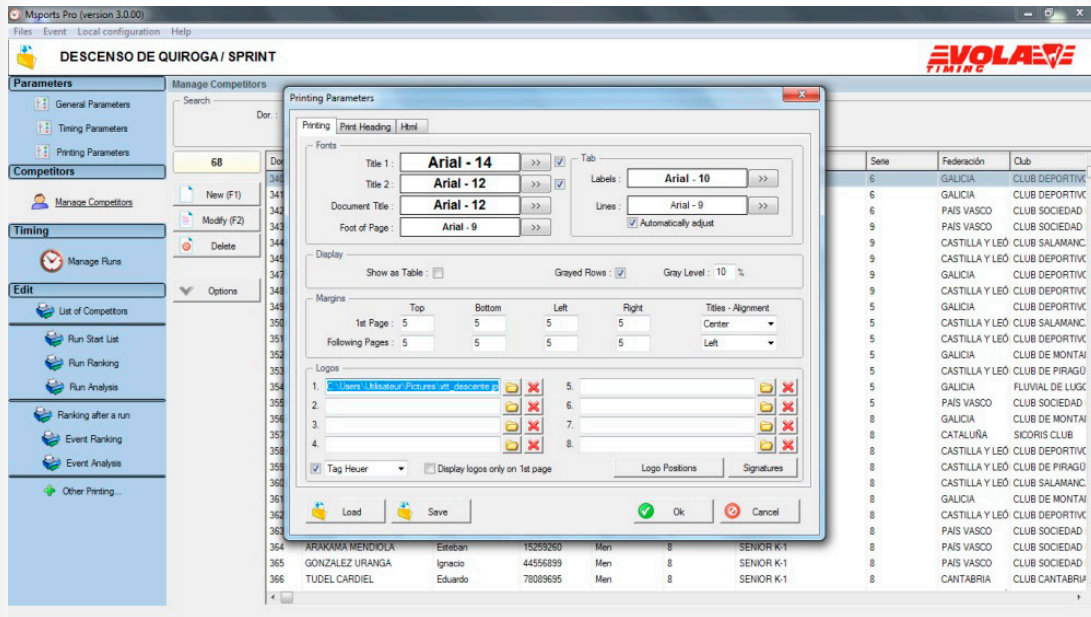
Step 26 : In «Manage competitors», you can enter competitors manually by using buttons «New», «Modify» and «Delete».

License : with no dongle <Msports-Pro> is in <Free> mode and the only available data for competitors will be :

- Bib number,
- Last Name,
- First Name,
- Code,
- Gender,
- Year,
- Category,
- and Club.

Once all competitors entered manually, you can if you wish update competitors information from a file by clicking on button «Options» and «Update competitors from a file».
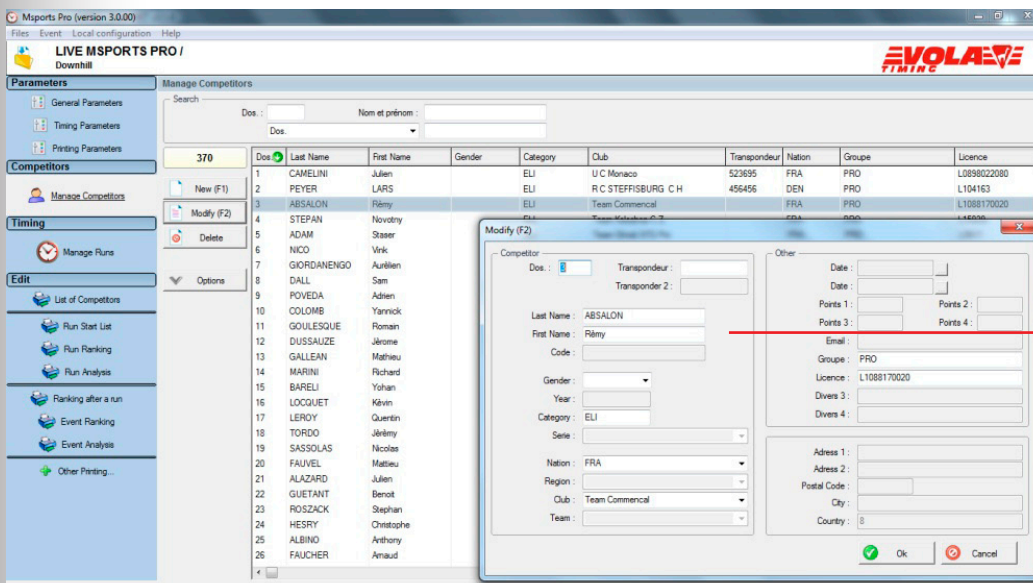
You enter manually the competitors details.

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Step 27 : Else you can import competitors from a file or from another event by clicking on button «Options» and select the wished choice and then select the committed with filters if needed.
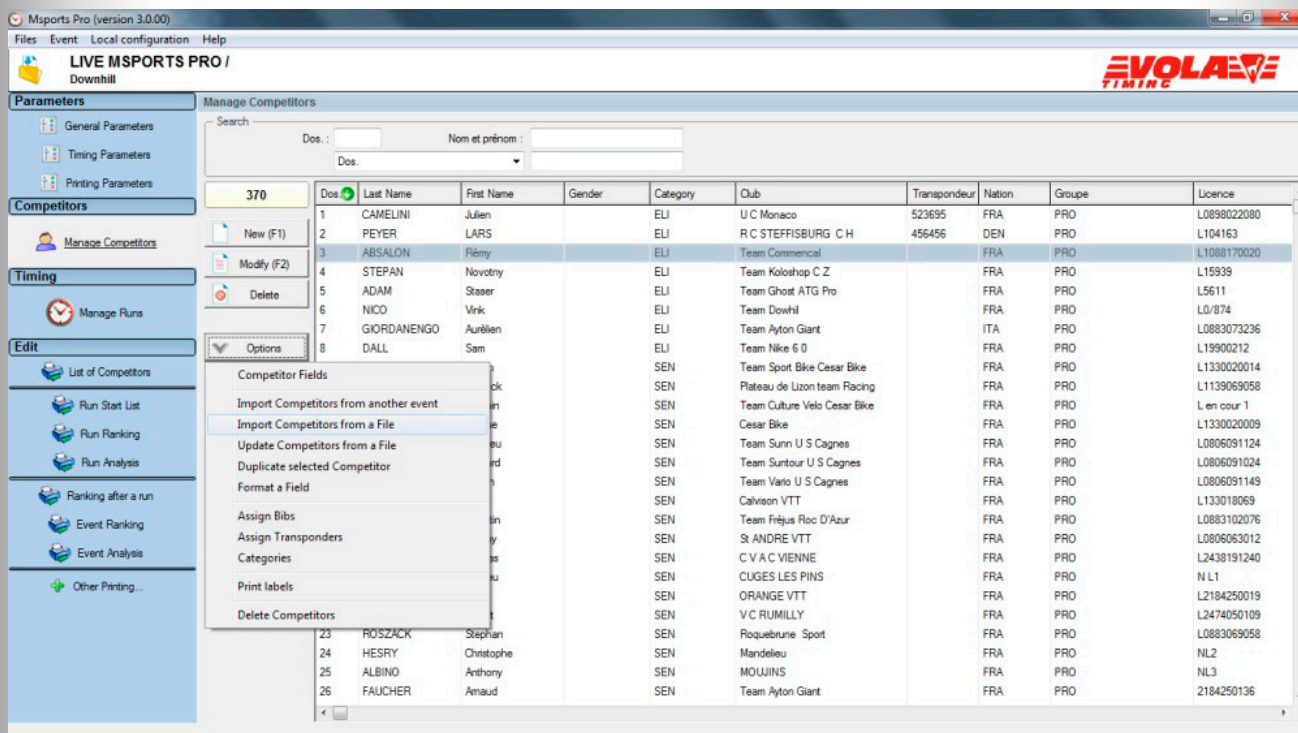
Step 28 : When you click on the «Manage competitors» section button «Option» you can also choose :

- to setup the «Competitor Fields» which correspond for example to the columns in the grid listing the competitors. That is to say if you think that an information is not relevant for your event you can uncheck it in this «Competitor Fields» window :

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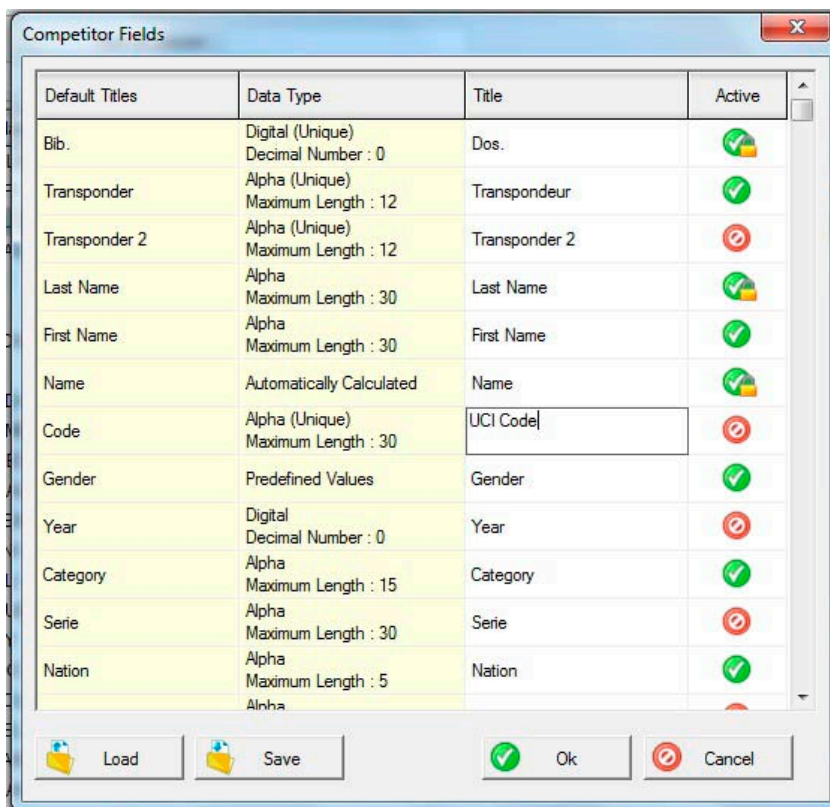
- to «Format a field» : for example reducing upper case words to lower case with the first letter in capital, or to replace the word «professional» by «PRO», etc. Click on button «Ok» to apply this layout : this can be useful for the edits presentation and for the grid-lists clarity in the software too.
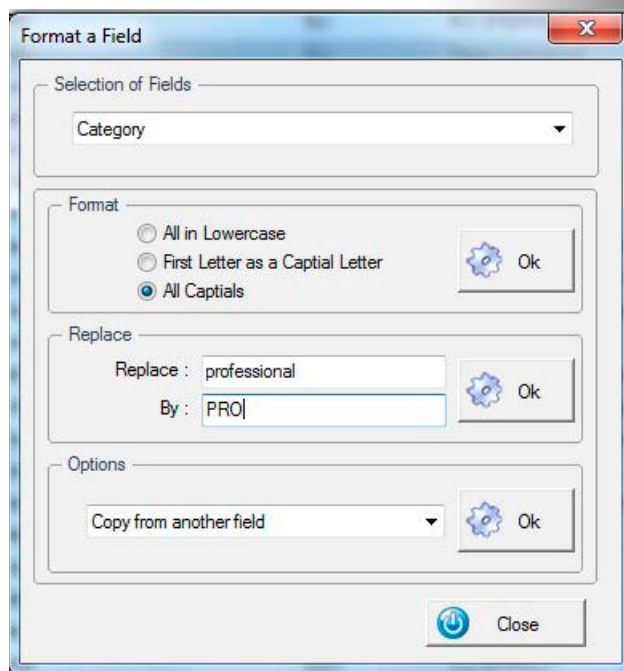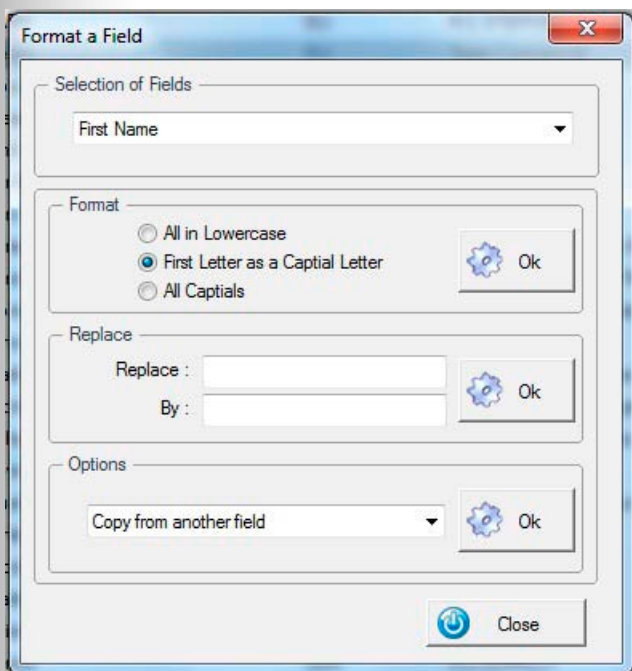
- to print labels with a customized layout (for bibs, stands, etc.) by clicking on «Print labels» :

you can here add :

    => a background image : if you wish it to be a watermark choose a transparent image or modify it in an image editor

    => information on the competitors : Name, Club, Nation, etc.

    By clicking on button «Preview» or «Print» you can then select the sort order for this list of labels.

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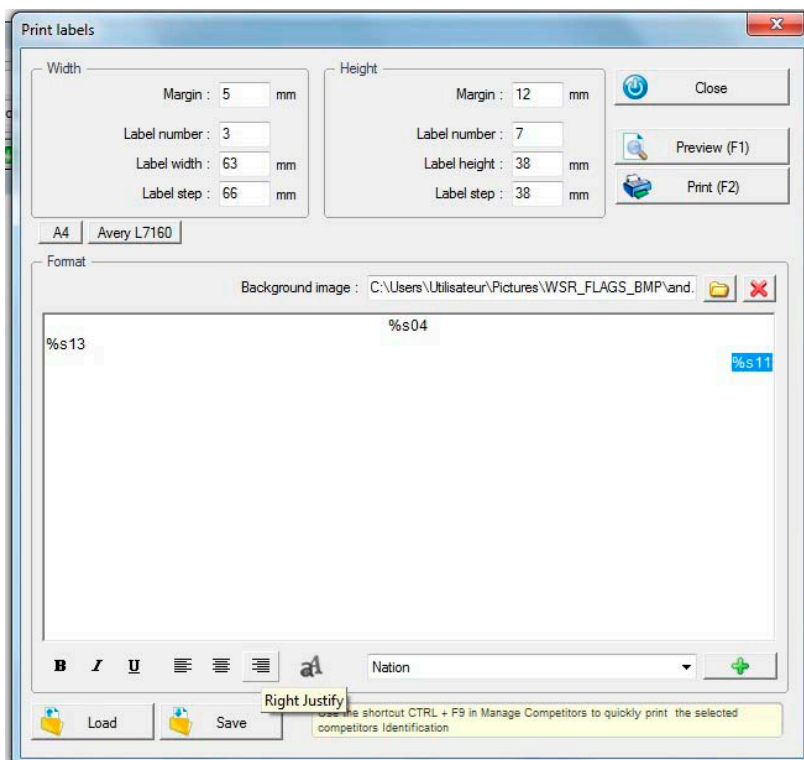
- to «Delete competitors» that is to say to delete a selection of competitors made through a filter.
Examples of filters :
- to select the competitors of category «JUN» :
choose in the first combo-box : «Category» then click on the small symbol button enough time to make it display the symbol «=» then type «JUN» in the combo-box to the right or select «JUN» with the mouse in the suggested list.
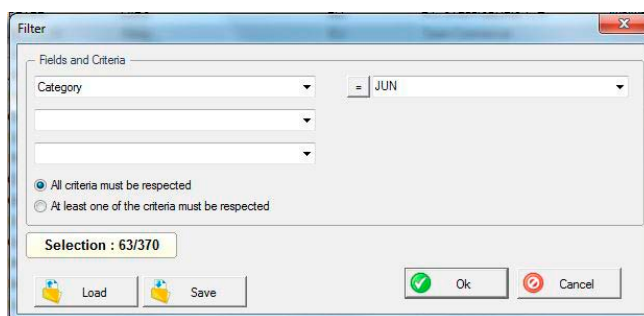
- to select the competitors of category different from «SEN» :
choose in the first combo-box : «Category» then click on the small symbol button enough time to make it display the symbol «<>» then type «SEN» in the combo-box to the right or select «SEN» with the mouse in the suggested list.
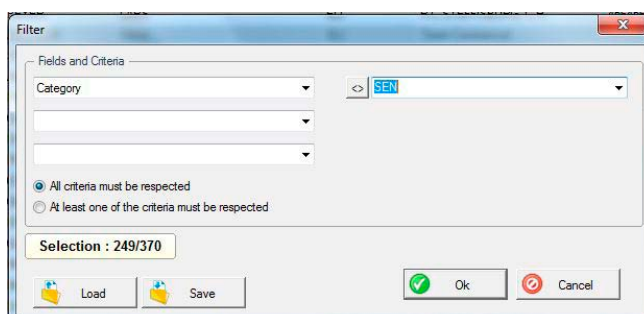
- to select the competitors whose «License» begins by the string «L1» :
choose in the first combo-box : «License» then click on the small symbol button enough time to make it display the symbol «~» then type «L1» in the combo-box to the right (if a completion is suggested, press the key «Del» on your keyboard in order to keep only the string «L1»).
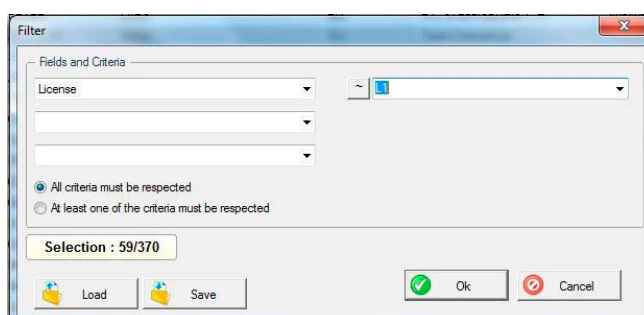
- to select the competitors whose «License» begins by the string «L1» AND of category «JUN»
on the first line : choose in the first combo-box : «License», select symbol «~» then type «L1» in the right combo-box
on the second line : choose in the combo-box : «Category», select symbol «=» then type «JUN» in the right combo-box
and make sure that the radio-button «All Criteria must be respected» is active.

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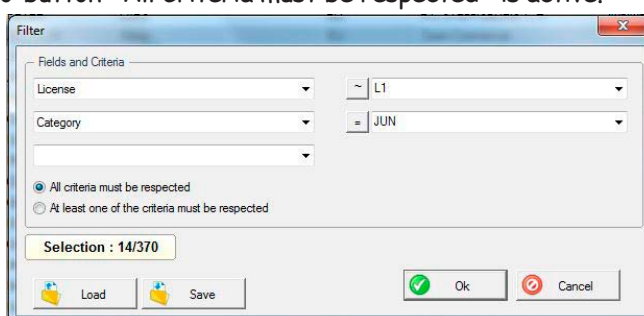
- to select the competitors whose «License» begins by the string «L1» OR of category «JUN»
on the first line : choose in the first combo-box : «License», select symbol «~»
then type «L1» in the right combo-box
on the second line : choose in the combo-box : «Category», select symbol «=»
then type «JUN» in the right combo-box

and make sure that the radio-button «At least one of the criterion must be respected» is active.
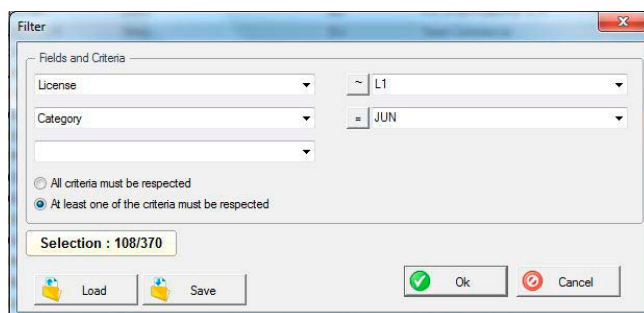
=> You can save this filter to a .flt file in order to reuse it by clicking on button «Save», or load an already saved filter by clicking on button «Load» the choosing the wished .flt file.
=> Simultaneously to your completing the filter the «Selection» field indicates how much competitors are retrieved for the current filter (or filters combination).

After clicking on button «Ok», a warning window will then ask you to confirm your deletion request or not.

Step 29 :   Another menu is available in the button «Option» : the menu «Categories» enables you to set up the categories for your event; you can save these to a .cat file.
The button «Update» applies your setup to the already recorded competitors list.

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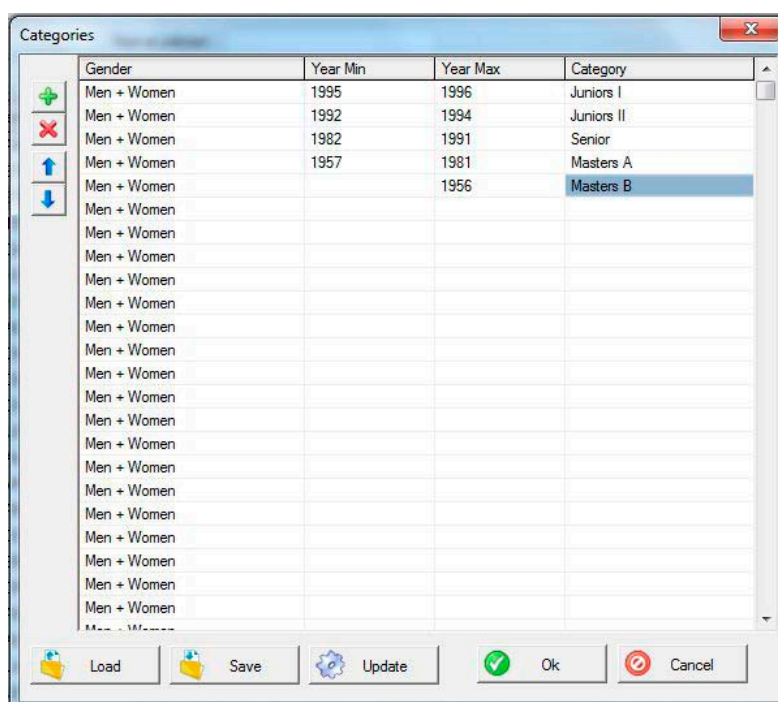
Step 30 :   You can now edit or print the list of competitors by clicking on the link «List of Competitors» in the main window (in the section «Edit»).
<Free mode> : The basic preview enables you to print this list in a PDF file. But with a <Msports-Pro×Extended> dongle you can export in an Excel file, Text file, HTML file or launch a FTP Transfer too.

Setup the output layout : title, header, number of lines, columns.

Select the fields you wish to publish and setup their layout.

You can write here a note that will appear at the end of the list edit.

Choose the order in which competitors will be sorted in this edit.
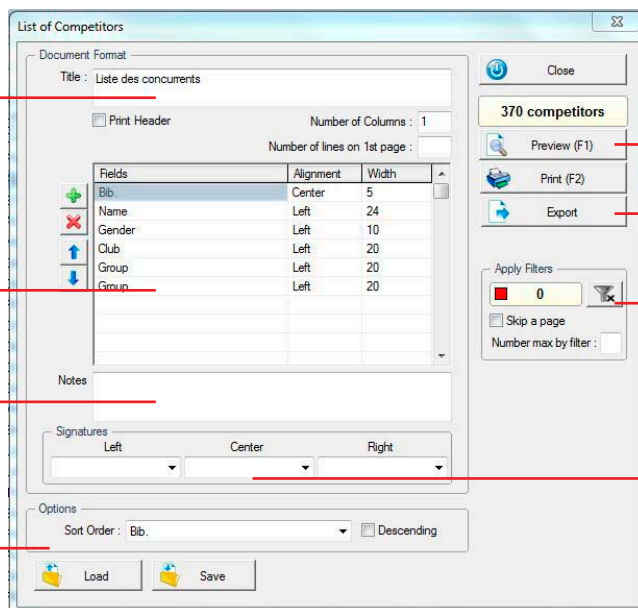
Click here to preview or export a pdf file.

Click here for other exports.

You can divide the edited list according to filters : see instructions below.

Add titles for signatures at the edition bottom.

=> Applying filters : example of a Category division presentation :

- in the «List of competitors» window, click on the «funnel-icon» button in the «Apply filters» group-box
- the «Filter list» window opens; in this window grid a line will correspond to a division in your edition
- example of a Category division : create a first division for Seniors by clicking on button «New», then choose «Category» in the first combo-box and then the symbol «=» and pick «SEN» in the right combo-box.
Then create a division for Juniors by clicking on «New», choose «Category» again, symbol «=», and «JUN».
Here is the «Filter list» you should then obtain :

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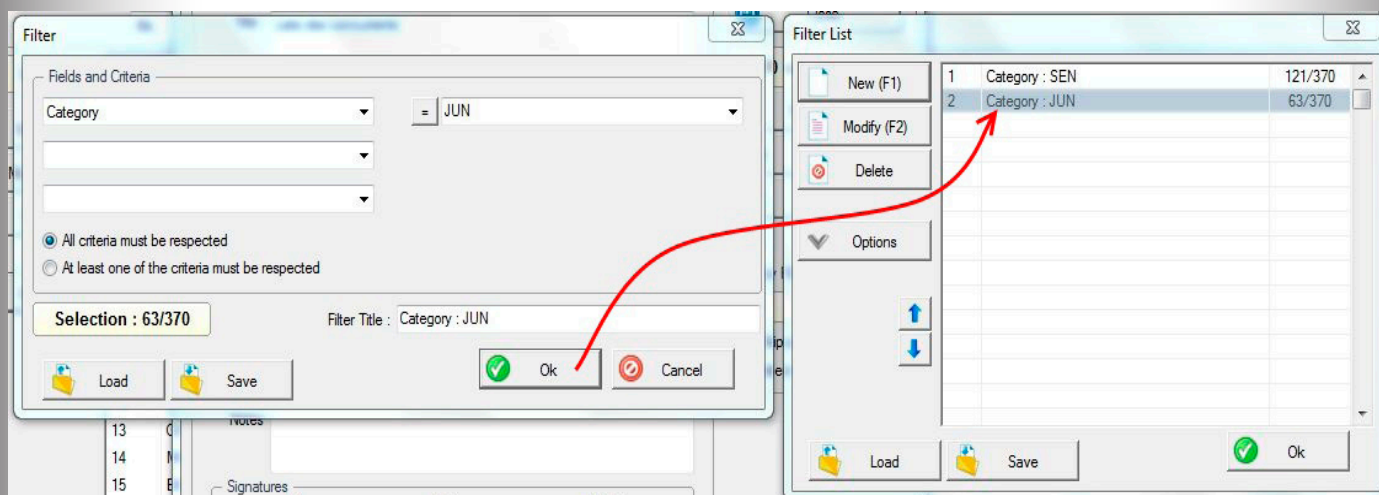
Then if you click on «Preview» you should see your competitors list divided according to the filter list as below :

Step 31 :   Click now on the link «Manage Runs». The grids background colour will turn to blue : they are now ranking grids.

Here you can check if you have correctly configured the number of runs.

Here you can control the global situation of the competitors.
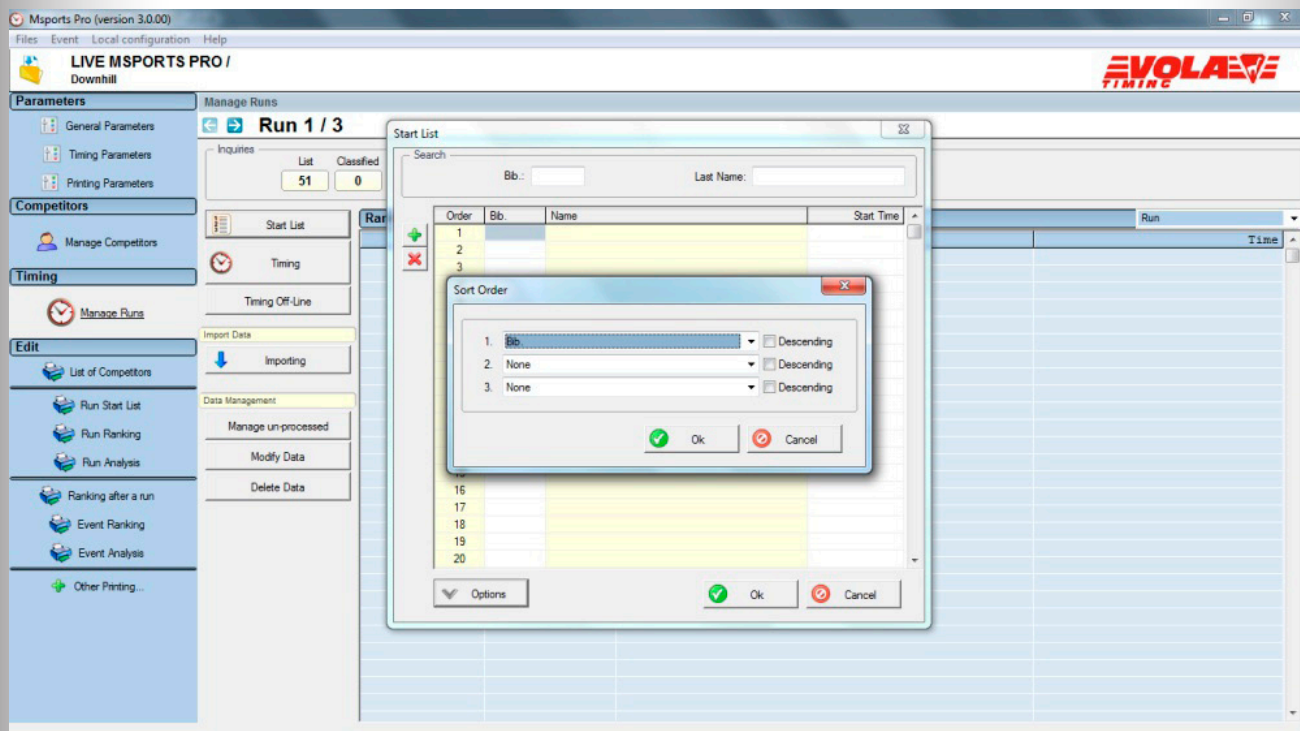
Here you can create the start list.

Here you can enter into the Timing section.

Here you can manage data corrections after your timing.

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Step 32 : You have first to create the start list. Click on button «Start list» and the window below will open. You can prepare a start list from the competitors' list or from the first runs results or from another event ranking or start list, etc. For a standard timing (1st run), choose «prepare with competitors».
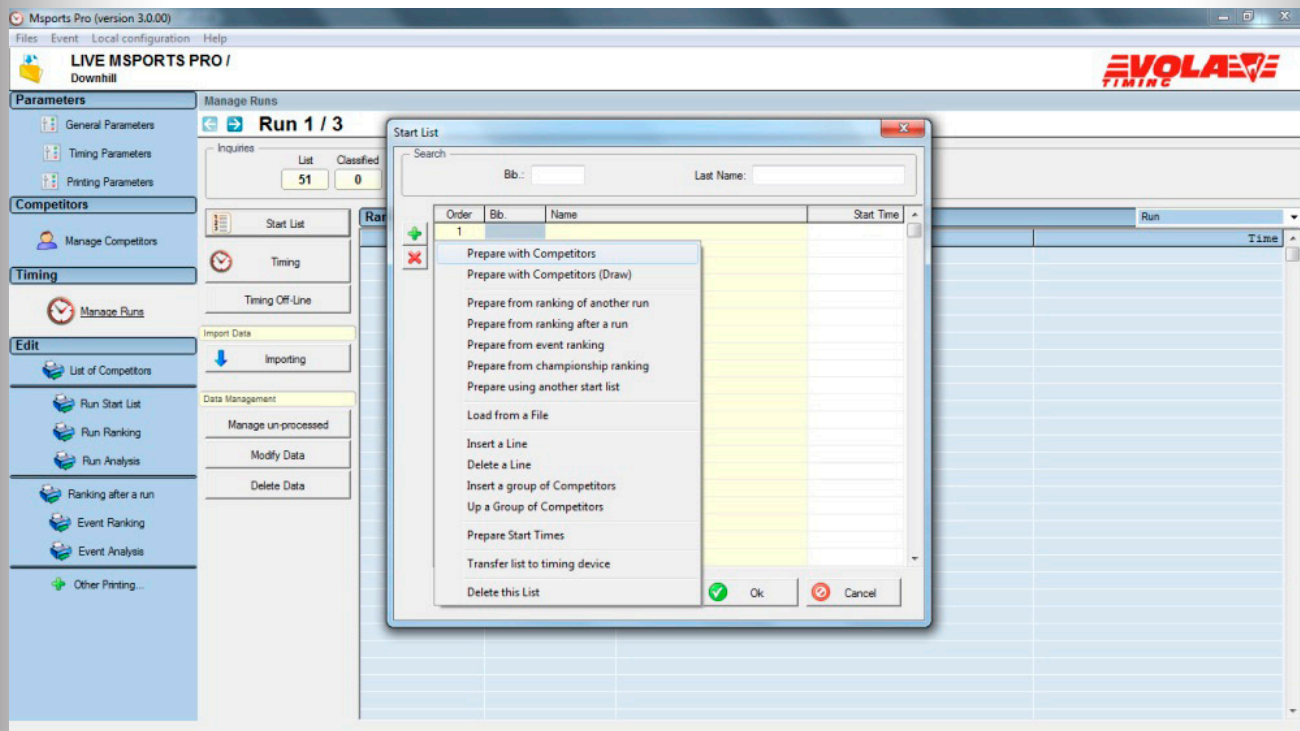

Step 33 : The following window will open and offer you the possibility to arrange by Bib number, Name of the competitor, Category, Club, ... Most frequent choice is by «Bib.» number.

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Step 34 :   Then a window offers you to modify again this start list by :
- reducing the competitors selection with filter (for example : «Category» + «<>» + «JUN» : to exclude Juniors from this start list)
- defining a maximum number of competitors for this start list, or a Bibo which is usually left to zero for a first run.

Important : click on button «Add» to validate the elaborated start list. Else to skip, click «Close».
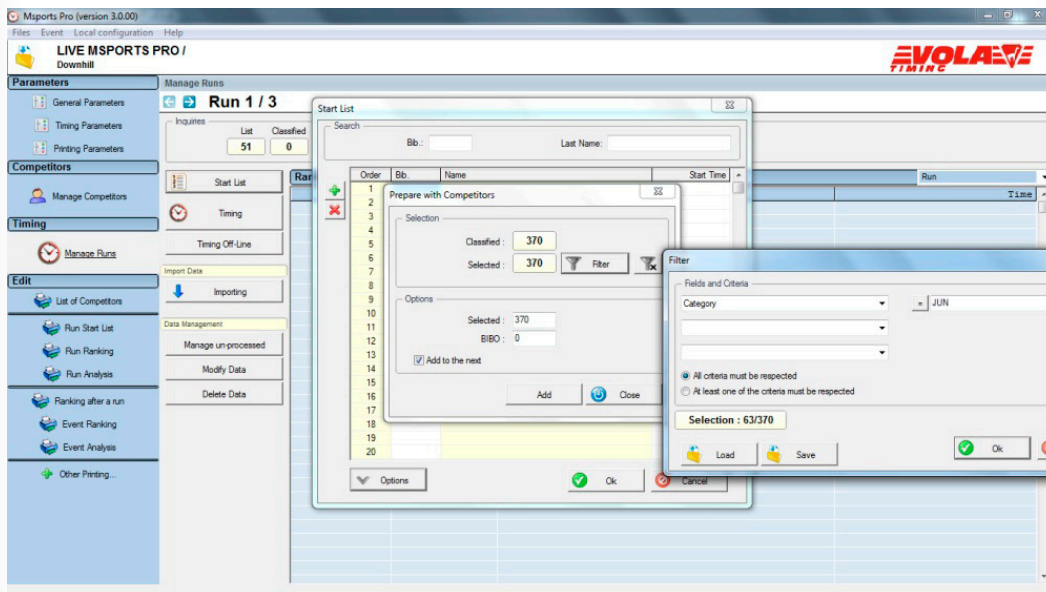
Step 35 :   Just after creating the start list, it is usually printed for placarding it publicly. For that, click on the link «Run Start List» in the left column.
You will have to choose the run.
Then you can configure the start list columns as you want.
You can see the result by clicking on «Preview» and print the list too.
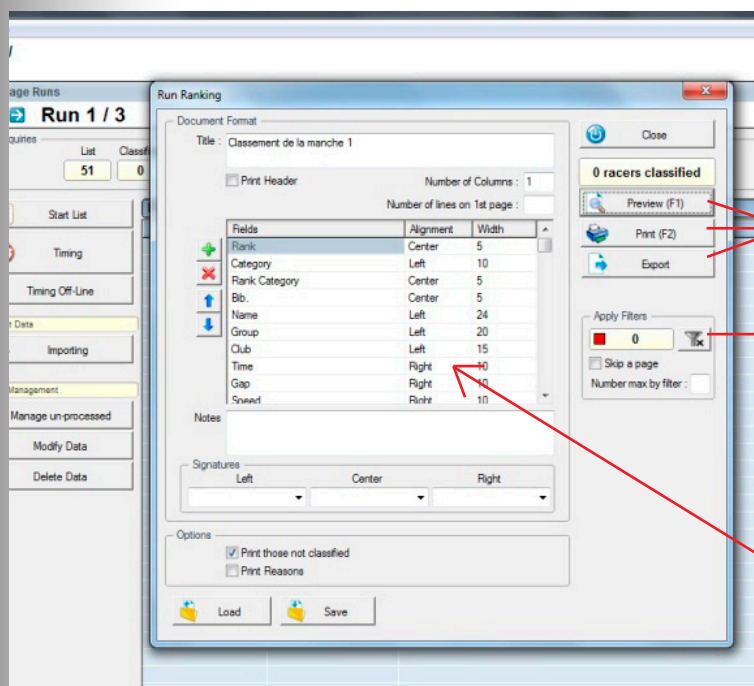
Have a look on the start list, print it or export for Excel, or in PDF or HTML files.
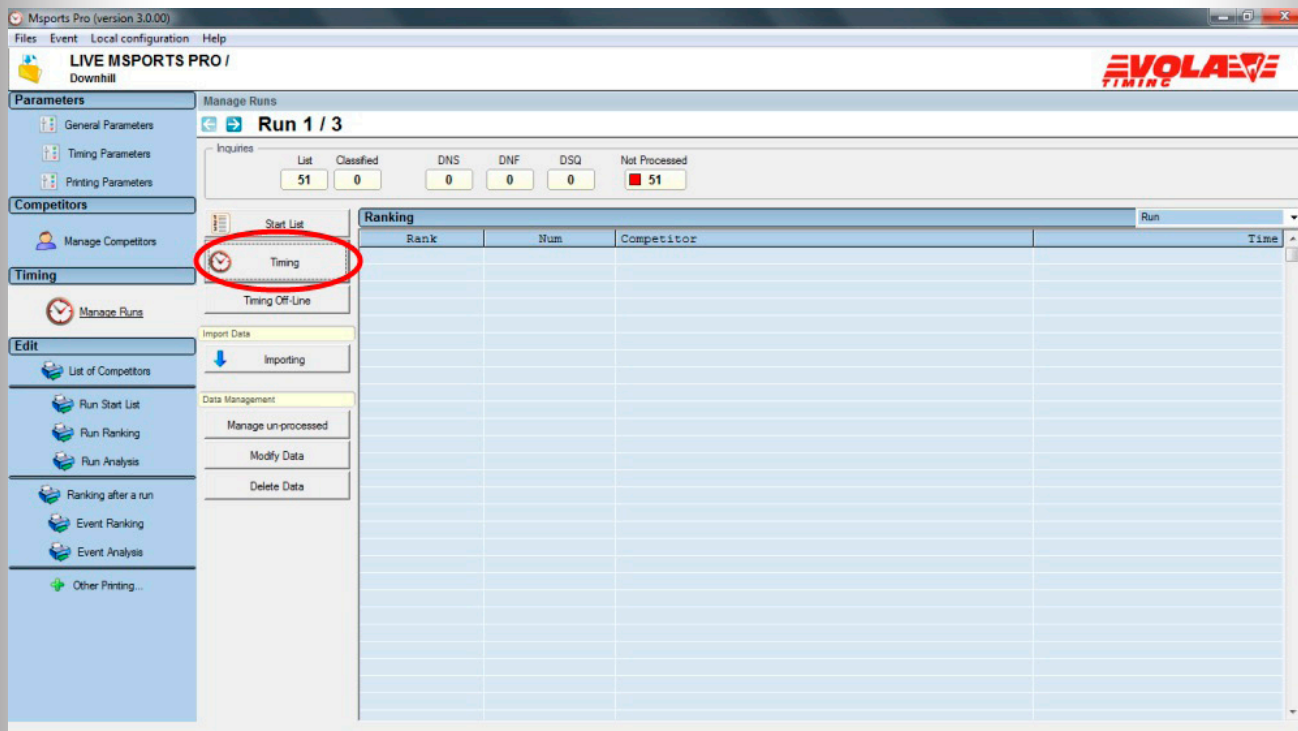
Add filters (see instructions below).

Define the columns with gender, year of birth, name, nation, …

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Concerning the filters, they won't modify the start list you
have elaborated but they allow you to re-arrange the presentation
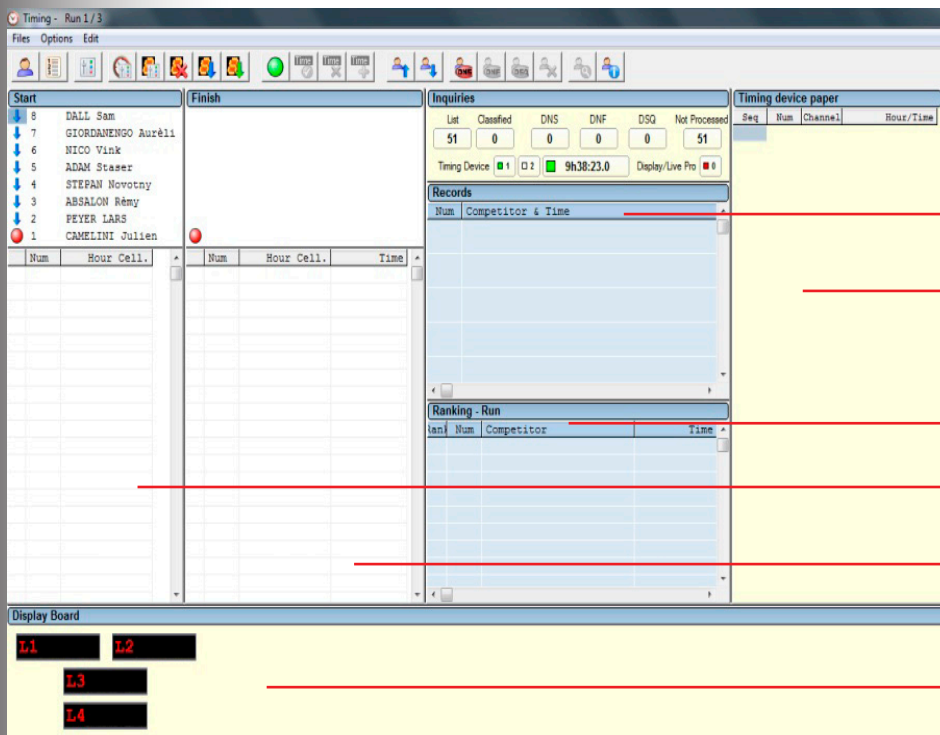of the start list for publishing it.
For example, you may want to divide the start list according to the nation of the
competitors, so that for each nation they will know in which order their competitors
will compete. In the window below, the third filter has been made by clicking on button
«New» then choosing «Nation» + «=» + «STK».
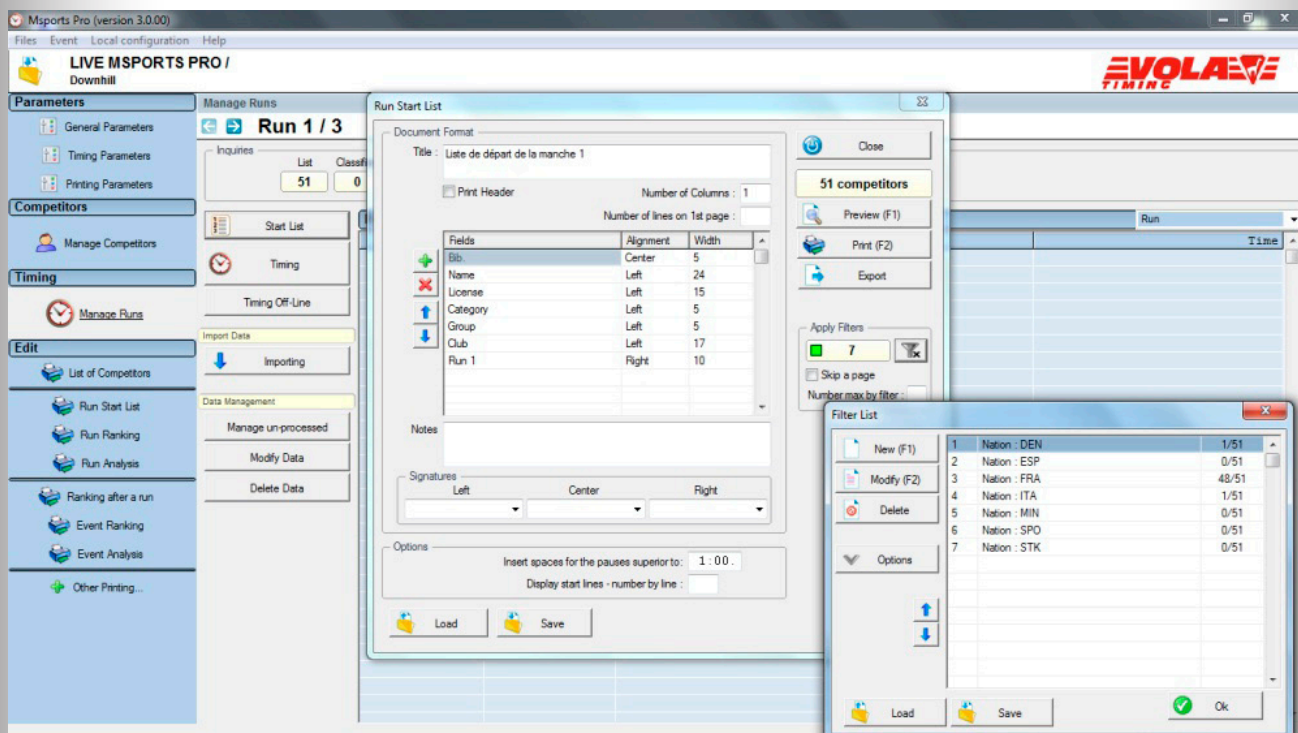
Step 36 :   Print or export your start list according to your needs and wishes for
presenting your race. Then, close it and open the «Timing» section.

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Here you have entered the timing section which is presented as below.

you can see all the records ordered chronologically.

you can optionally see all the information printed on the timing device paper (see menu «Options»).

you can see the event ranking.

in this column, you can see all the impulses sent by the start.

in this column, you can see all the impulses sent by the finish.

you can optionally see all the information displayed on the scoreboard(s) (see menu «Options»).

Important : to have the computer and the timing device synchronized, you will have to get an impulse before the first run of the first Event and when you are in the «Timing» section but without any start armed.

Note : in timing mode, you can handle every record (modify, suppress, insert, …) in three different ways : either with a right-click on the concerned impulse, either with buttons «Time», «DNF», «DSQ», «DNS», either with keyboard shortcuts (Ctrl+F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, …).

Step 38 :   When you are waiting for the competitors, you have first to unlock the impulse buttons by clicking on them. You can unlock the start and finish buttons once for all the race or when there is a break during the race or, if you prefer, after each racer.
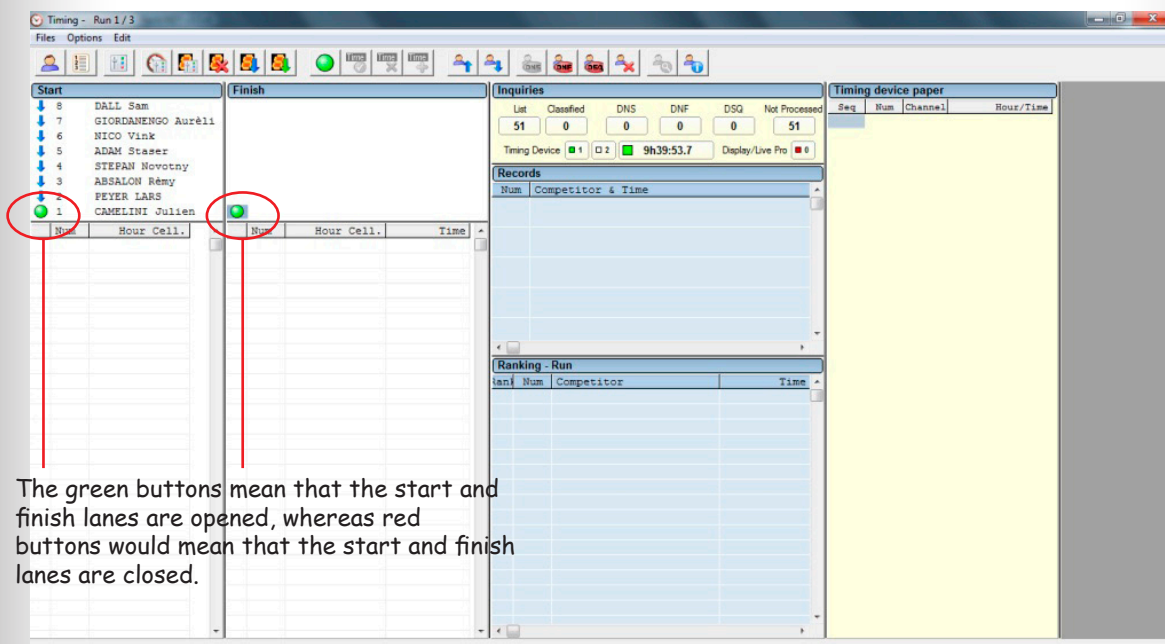
The green buttons mean that the start and finish lanes are opened, whereas red buttons would mean that the start and finish lanes are closed.

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The start time of the first racer (Num 1) appears here.

The running time of the racer is activated here.

You can check here what is printed by the timing device.

If you have forgotten to unlock the start lane (red button), the software will pop a warning (see image below on the left). Enter the number of the racer (Num 1) like in the example and press «Ok». If the impulse is an error on the start lane, click on cancel and you will have the window as the one on the right below.

First racer left and you forgot to unlock the start lane.

The start lane has recorded a false impulse and you have cancelled it.

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Step 40 : If there's only one competitor running,
the second impulse should come from the finish lane.
The information below evolve in the software interface :

Record of the Num 1
who has crossed the
finish lane.

Finish lane time and run
duration of the first
competitor.

Ranking +
Time.

Step 41 : All your competition will progress according to the process seen previously.
Your competition can be manage one competitor by one competitor but when
you feel confident, the software let you free to add more competitors in
the same time.

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Note that the button circled below, allow you to manage the competitors if they are DNS (Did Not Start) or DNF (Did Not Finished) or DSQ (Disqualified).
You can directly use these buttons or their keyboard shortcuts such as F9 for DNS (view all shortcuts in menu «Options»).
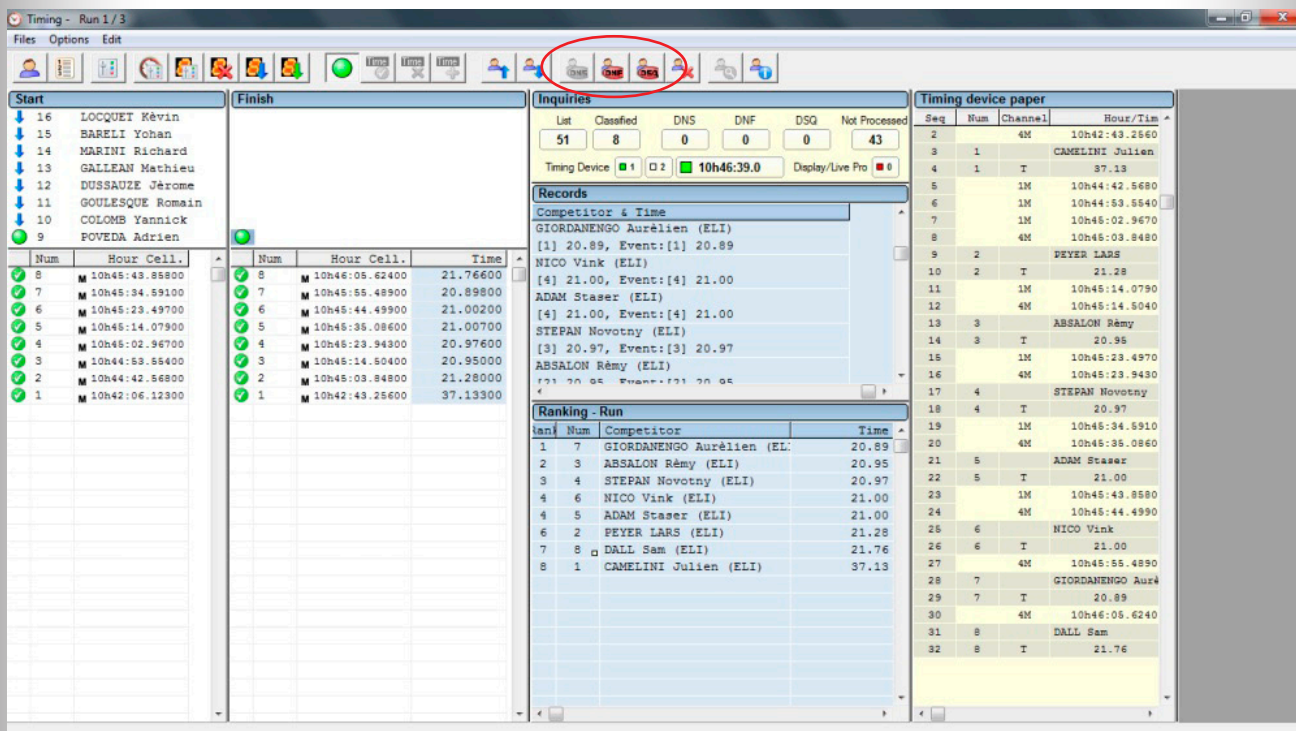
Step 42 :   As soon as all the run has been completed, exit from the «timing» section by clicking on «Files» / «Exit Timing» as below :
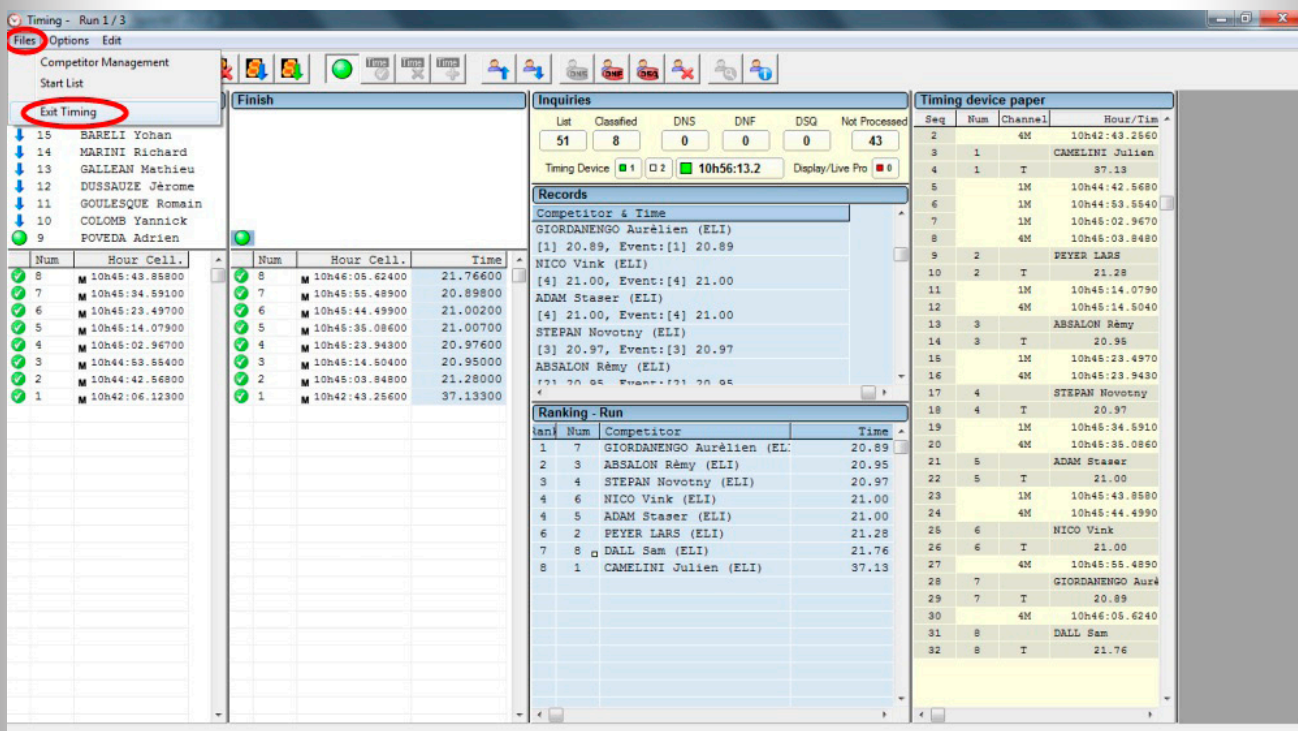
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You can view here the ranking of the run.

If you notice differences from what the jury has noted, you can check the penalties with the button «Modify Data».

The button «Modify Data» drives you to the window below.
Correct data according to the jury decision.
Example below : adding a time penalty of 10 seconds :

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The link «Run Ranking» enables you to create the official run ranking. The window below opens and you have the possibility to set up your list. You can thus define the information that you wish to display such as the name, birth year, nation, club... Click then on button «Preview» to view the results list and then print or export this list.
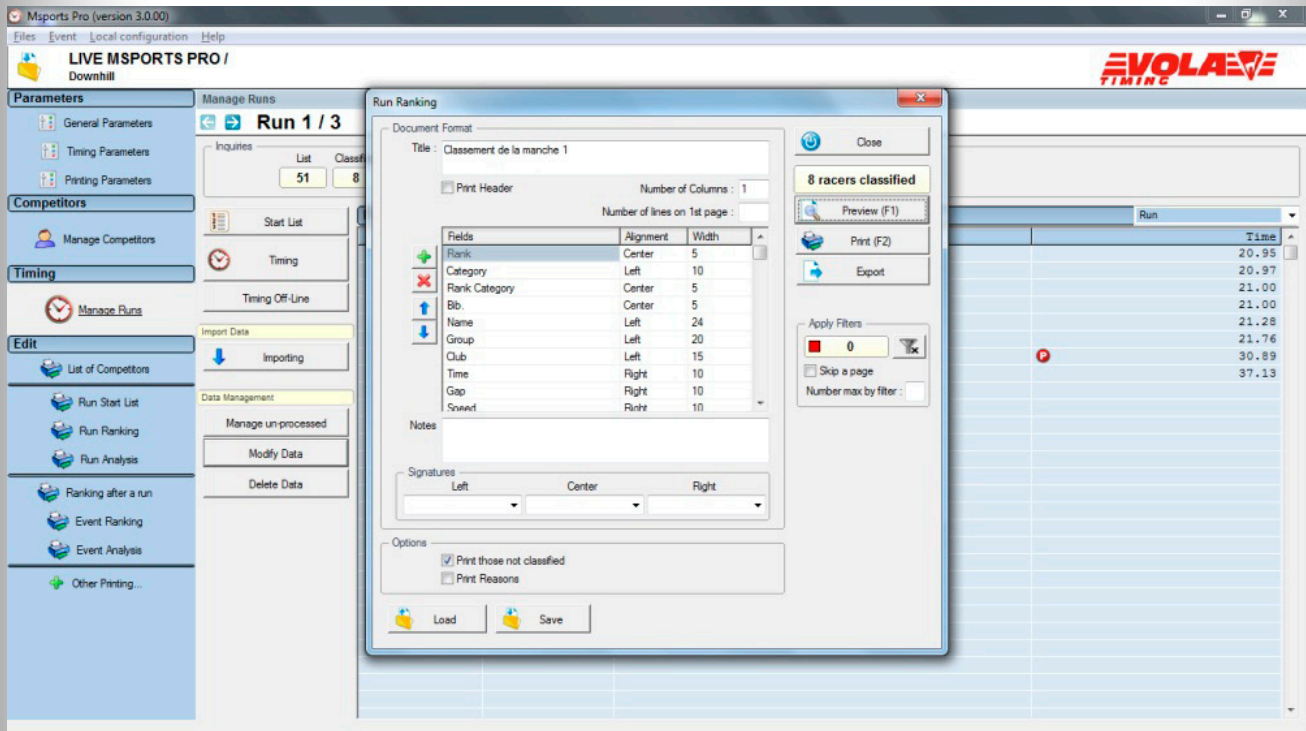
Note : If your competition consists of only one run, timing is finished and you can directly go to the step of results editing.

Step 44 :   It's now time to go on Run 2. Click on the dart circled below. You will automatically enter into the second run management.

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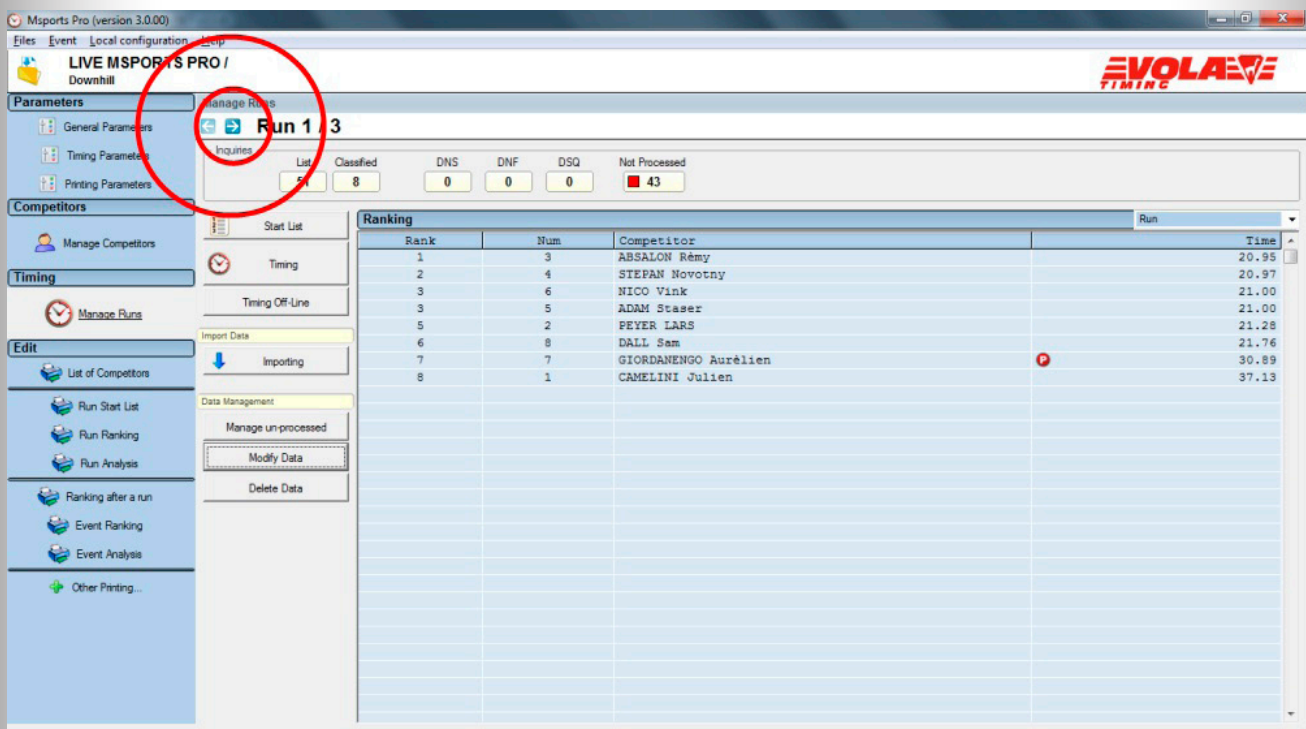
Step 45 : First of all, you have to create the start list of the second run. Click on the «Start List» button and the following window will open. Then, click on the «Options» button and choose «Prepare from ranking after a run». As done for the first run, the software gives you many solution to prepare the start list from rankings, events or even championships.
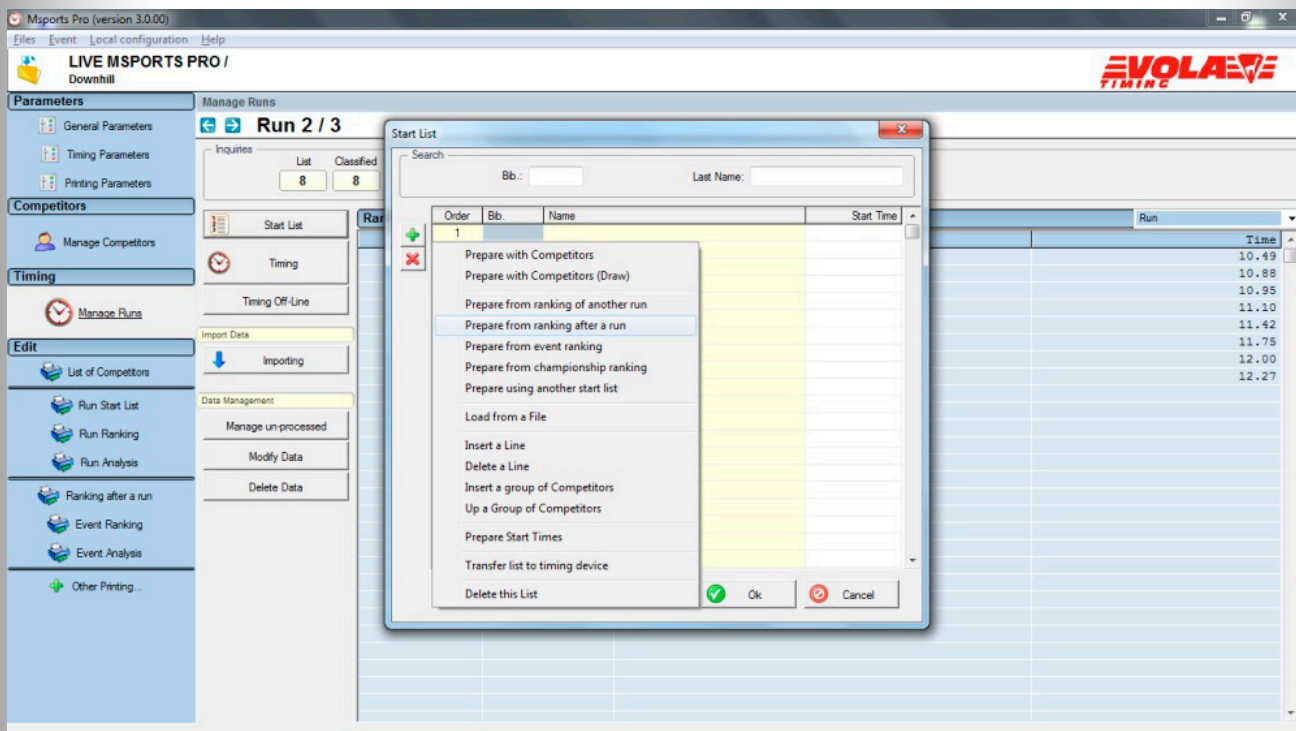
Step 46 : In this example, we will define the second run start list with a BIBO of 3 (that is to say the third best ranked start in ranking reverse order and the following start in the ranking order). Click on button «Add» then on «Close» and «Ok» to validate.

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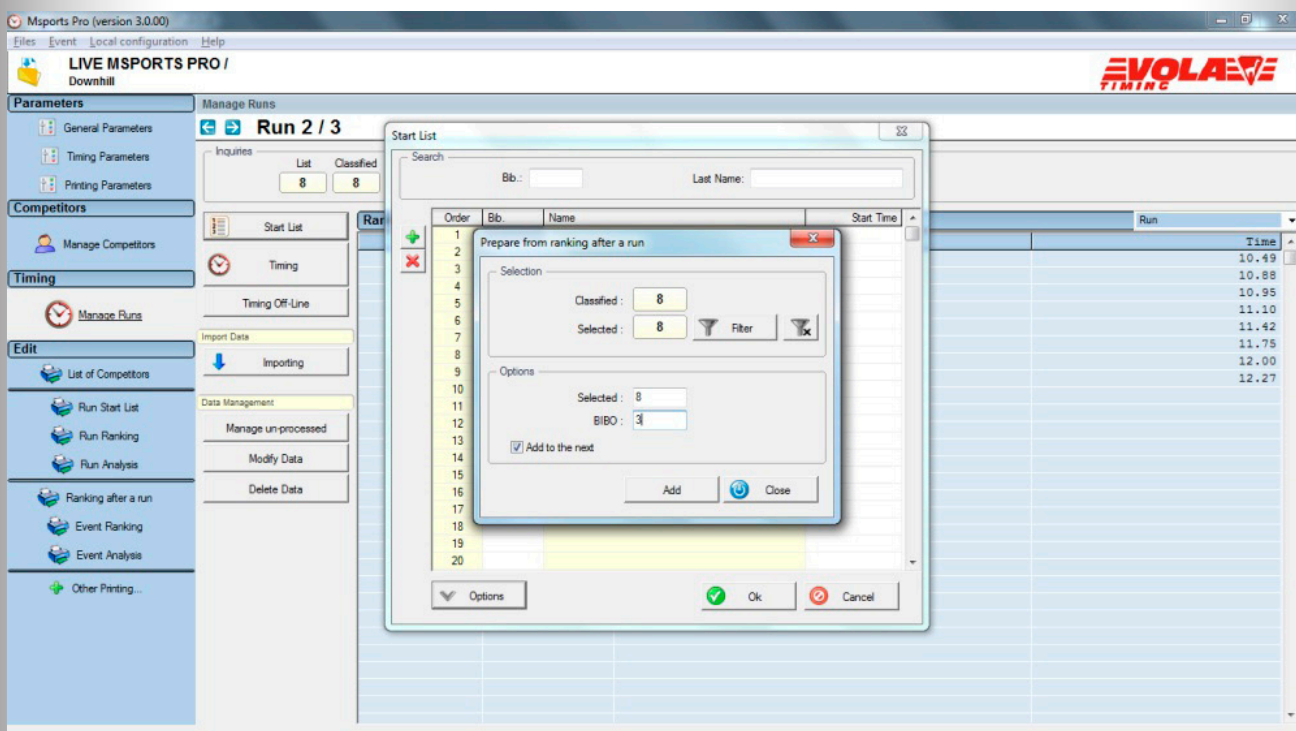
Step 47 : Once the start list windows have been closed, click on the link «Run start list» and configure the start list as you need.
You can see in the following example that the fastest competitor of the first run is ranked in third position in the second run start list.

Step 48 : Your start list for the second run is now available, click on button «Timing» to enter into the timing section.
Like in the first run, this will open the timing window.

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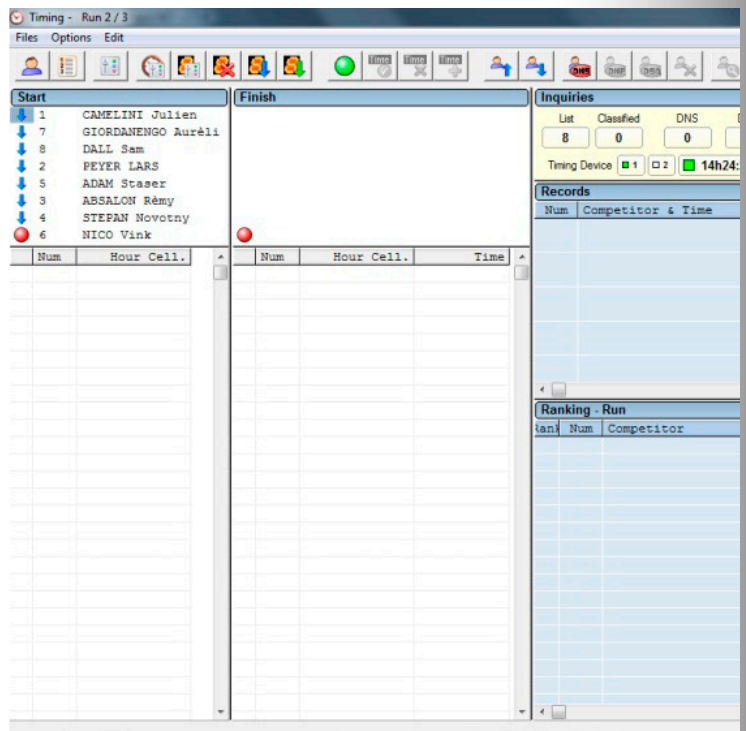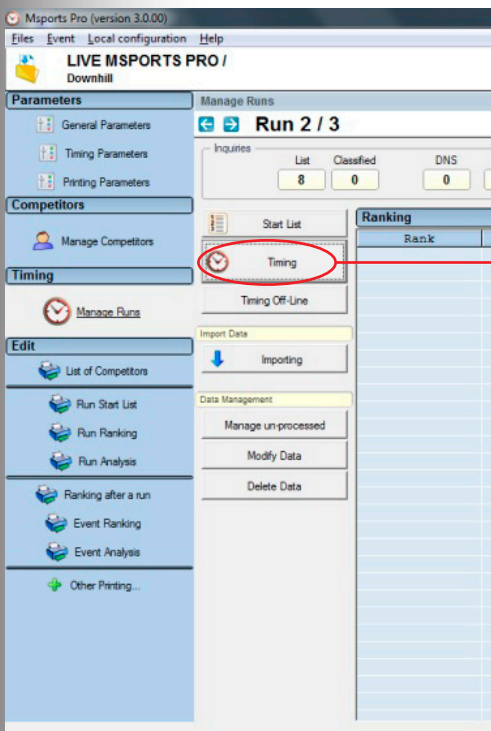
Step 49 : Time your race as done for the first run, from the first competitor to the last one of the second run. When the run has been completed, exit from the timing section.

Step 50 : Perform these steps for each run of your competition. When the race is completed, you can create each run ranking list or the event ranking list (addition of run times).

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You can see below, on the left, the second run ranking and on the right, the final ranking of the event.

Timnig is now completed. You can export the results, print them and close the program.

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