

SPORT: Surfing

EVENT: 2017 VISSLA ISA World Junior Surfing Championship

PLACE: Hyuga, Japan

DATE: 28 SEPT 2017

Length: 2:52

00:03 **Color**

00:45 **Action**

- 00:47 Leo Etienne, Team France
- 01:00 Keanu Chris Kamiyama, Team Japan
- 01:22 Marco Mignot, Team France
- 01:31 Samson Coulter, Team Australia

01:52 **Interview** (Kitty Brewer, Team Channel Islands)

02:20 **Interview** (Leo Etienne, Team France)

2:52 End of feed

Team USA jumped out into the lead in the team rankings with only three days remaining at the **2017 VISSLA ISA World Junior Surfing Championship**.

In what is set to be a closely contested race for Gold, the defending World Champion, France, Australia, and Japan trail USA, well within striking distance of Gold.

Team USA, who won the overall Gold for the first time when they hosted the event in Oceanside, California in 2015, lost only one competitor in Thursday's Repechage Round. Their near perfect performance was led by their U-16 sensation, **Taro Watanabe**, who has asserted himself as one of the true up-and-comers with the highest heat total of the event thus far (19.03) and the third highest of the day on Thursday (15.50).