

SPORT: SUP & Paddleboard

EVENT: FIJI ISA WORLD SUP & PADDLEBOARD CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

PLACE: FIJI

DATE: 12 NOV 2016

Length: 03:34

00:02 Color

01:24 Flags of the World Ceremony

02:14 Interview (ISA President Fernando Aguerre)

02:39 Interview (Faiyaz Koya, Fiji's Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism,)

03:33 End of feed

The **2016 Fiji ISA World SUP and Paddleboard Championship** was officially declared open in Port Denarau, Fiji, marking the inauguration of the first-ever ISA World Championship to take place in the country.

The 26 National SUP and Paddleboard Teams present in Fiji will kick off the competition on Sunday, November 13 with SUP Surfing at Fiji's world-renowned wave, Cloudbreak.

In attendance at the Opening Ceremony were 244 athletes that travelled from around the world to compete for Gold Medals and represent their nation.

The ceremony began with the Parade of Nations, as each National Surfing Team marched along the marina at Port Denarau waving their national flags while ringing out national cheers in unison. The Fiji Police Band led the parade with a taste of local Fijian music.

ISA President, Fernando Aguerre, addressed the athletes and spectators:

"I would like to wish the athletes the best of luck for the week to come. A few of you will go home with medals, but each of you is a champion because you have earned the right to represent your nation in this international competition. When you go home, go home as an ambassador of Fijian warmth and culture."

"We know about the incredible waves that Fiji is blessed with, but the most memorable part of the country for me has been the Fijians that have received us with their amazing 'bula' spirit.