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The 2024 World Series of Poker has come to its conclusion. As every summer, Las Vegas has been home to many less-known poker games for over a month. One such game is Badugi, a fascinating and unique poker variant that challenges players with its distinct rules and strategies. This article will delve into the game's intricacies, providing all the information you need to understand what Badugi is all about.

This year's WSOP Champion in the \$1,500 Limit Badugi - Michael Rodrigues - won over \$144k for his efforts, so there's definitely money to be made in niche games. What are the origins of Badugi? Badugi is a captivating form of poker that most likely originated in Asia and soon after gained worldwide popularity. Unlike traditional poker variations like Texas Hold'em or Pot Limit Omaha, Badugi is a draw game played without community cards. Also, unlike Five Card Draw, every player receives four cards. The game's objective is to create the lowest four-card hand possible, with the twist that players aim to have four different suits and ranks.

The basic rules of Badugi: The basic rules of Badugi poker are: Each player is dealt four private cards facing down. The game consists of four rounds of betting, similar to other poker games. For simplicity, players often refer to the first betting round as pre-draw. Analogously, the second betting round is considered the flop; the third betting round is regarded as the turn, and the last, fourth betting round, is called a river - just like in No Limit Hold'em. Players can discard and replace any or all of their cards during each round. They can also choose not to replace any cards - such a move is known as a "standing pat". The goal of Badugi is to form the lowest hand possible, ideally