

# **YELLOW–BLACK PROTOCOL (Y-B)**

Ethical Signal Standard v1.0

Author: Tartarys Community (Initiated by the Founder)

## **Abstract**

This paper introduces the Yellow–Black Protocol (Y-B), an ethical signaling standard designed to document, communicate, and resolve disputed or unethical uses of cultural, intellectual, or communal artifacts without coercive enforcement.

The protocol does not rely on courts, authorities, or compulsory jurisdiction. Instead, it establishes a transparent, time-bound, and publicly auditable signaling mechanism anchored in community witnessing.

Yellow represents a formal ethical notice.

Black represents unresolved ethical breach.

The Y-B protocol creates no punishment.

It creates record.

## **1. Motivation**

In a global digital environment, enforcement is expensive, jurisdictional, and asymmetrical.

Small creators, communities, and innovators are often unable

to defend ethical claims through traditional legal systems.

The Yellow–Black Protocol proposes an alternative:  
public ethical signaling instead of legal coercion.

## **2. Core Principles**

The Y-B Protocol is founded on four principles:

1. Non-coercion
2. Transparency
3. Right to response
4. Community witnessing

## **3. The Yellow Signal**

A Yellow Signal is a formal ethical notice recorded on-chain.

It declares that a specific action, usage, or representation  
is believed to violate ethical norms, declared intent,  
or community-acknowledged boundaries.

A Yellow Signal is not an accusation.

It is an invitation to clarification.

## **4. Conditions for Issuing a Yellow Signal**

A Yellow Signal may be issued when:

- an artifact is used without consent
- attribution is removed or distorted
- declared usage terms are ignored
- community-defined ethical boundaries are crossed

The issuer must provide:

- a clear description of the concern
- a reference to the affected artifact
- a verifiable timestamp

## **5. Notice Period**

Upon issuance of a Yellow Signal, a notice period begins.

The default notice period is 30 calendar days,  
unless otherwise specified by the governing community.

During this period, the addressed party has the right  
to respond, clarify, correct, or contest the signal.

## **6. Right to Response**

The addressed party may respond by:

- providing clarification
- correcting the disputed usage
- proposing ethical settlement
- disputing the claim with evidence

All responses are recorded and remain publicly visible.

Silence is also a response.

## **7. The Black Signal**

A Black Signal is a formal ethical record of unresolved breach.

It is issued only after:

- a Yellow Signal has been published
- the notice period has expired
- no satisfactory resolution was achieved

## **8. Nature of the Black Signal**

A Black Signal is not punishment.

It imposes no legal force.

It enforces no compliance.

A Black Signal is public memory.

It records that:

- an ethical concern was raised
- an opportunity for resolution was given
- the concern remained unresolved

## **9. Consequences of a Black Signal**

The sole consequence of a Black Signal is visibility.

Visibility allows:

- informed decision-making
- voluntary distancing
- reputational reflection

No coercive action follows.

No enforcement mechanism exists.

## **10. Community Interpretation**

Interpretation of a Black Signal is decentralized.

Each participant decides:

- whether to engage
- whether to trust
- whether to cooperate

The protocol does not prescribe behavior.

It preserves freedom of choice.

## **11. Reversibility**

A Black Signal may be followed by a public clarification.

If the community accepts the clarification, a restorative record may be appended.

The original record remains immutable.

Restoration does not erase history.

## **12. Governance**

The Yellow–Black Protocol has no central authority.

Signals may be initiated by any participant.

Validation is performed by community visibility.

Acceptance or rejection is voluntary and decentralized.

No council, court, or operator governs outcomes.

## **13. Scope of Application**

The protocol may be applied to:

- digital assets
- intellectual works
- open-source projects
- commercial conduct
- community agreements

The protocol does not depend on jurisdiction, industry, or legal classification.

## **14. Non-Jurisdictional Disclaimer**

The Yellow–Black Protocol is not a legal system.

It does not:

- replace courts
- enforce contracts

- impose sanctions
- claim regulatory authority

All signals are expressions of ethical notice only.

## **15. No Right to Oblivion**

Records created under this protocol are immutable.

Historical records are preserved as public memory.

Clarifications may be appended.

Original signals are not deleted.

## **16. Alignment with Open Systems**

The protocol is compatible with:

- open-source principles
- decentralized networks
- voluntary association
- free exit and free entry

Participation implies consent to visibility.

## **17. Final Clause**

The Yellow–Black Protocol exists to preserve dignity,  
not to exercise power.

It relies on conscience, not coercion.

Where law ends, memory begins.

Author:

Tartarys Community (Initiated by the Founder)

Contact:

[tartarysempire@proton.me](mailto:tartarysempire@proton.me)

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